



TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://www.twinlakesaudubon.org>



President's Letter

Dear Friends,

December 17th was a good day for our Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Although cool, there was little wind and the rain that was predicted never materialized. Results are preliminary as of yet, but we did find over 100 species! I am sure more details will be available during our January meeting. As a teaser, though, check out the bird sightings section of this newsletter for a list of some of the special birds that were found during the count. Thanks to everyone who participated in the CBC and helped to make it a success!

The beginning of the New Year is a time of anticipation. Indeed, Twin Lakes has much to look forward to in 2006. We have another year of enjoying the birds, butterflies, plants, etc. that we are all so passionate about. We must not forget that it is our enjoyment of the natural world, as well as the sharing of our experiences, that binds our group together. We can also look forward to more good camaraderie, as Twin Lakes will be sponsoring another slate of what should undoubtedly be interesting speakers and field trips.

The beginning of the New Year is also a time to make resolutions. One of the goals I would like to see our group attain in 2006 is higher attendance at meetings and field trips. On average, we have only had 21 attendees at our meetings during my brief tenure as president. Over the 3 years I have been a member of Twin Lakes, I have seen several of the "old", traditional faces disappear from the crowd, and "new" faces are typically few and far between. Field trip attendance has varied widely. Some trips have been decently attended and others not so much. I think we can do better. But, how? I am certainly open to suggestions. Would different types of talks or field trip locations attract greater attendance? Do field trips need to be scheduled differently (start time, day of the week, or time of the month)? Perhaps we just need to be more aggressive about recruiting and publicity? The continued strength and success of our group is dependent on maintaining the interest of currently active members, recapturing the interest of members who have "dropped out", and recruiting new members.

I hope to see ya'll (old and new faces) at our next meeting on Tuesday 10 January! Steve Jester, the director of The Nature Conservancy's Blanco River Project, will talk to us about the human dimensions (culture, economics, politics, etc.) of natural resource conservation. It should prove to be an interesting and pertinent talk. Especially now-a-days, the successful implementation of substantial, on-the-ground conservation seems to be contingent on taking into account human dimensions. Our field trip will be to a new location, Lometa Reservoir (west of Lampasas). It should provide good opportunity to view wintering waterfowl. As a bonus, we will stop at the Brick Oven bakery beforehand to stock up on goodies before we scope out the reservoir.

Rich Kostecke

I hope you and your families had a happy holiday season and I wish you all a prosperous

New Year!

Sincerely,

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.

Talks and Events

10 January – Steve Jester on Human Dimensions of Wildlife Management

14 February – Leroy Williamson on Caddo Lake

14 March – No meeting; UMHB closed for spring break

11 April – Tim Marston (Natural Resource Management Branch, Fort Hood) on Red-cockaded Woodpeckers

9 May – Annual membership slideshow, show-and-tell, plant swap, etc.

Field Trips

14 January – Lometa Reservoir (Lampasas County), we will meet at the Brick Oven bakery in Kempner (on U.S. 190 halfway between Copperas Cove and Lampasas)

28 January – Joint field trip with Travis Audubon to view Short-eared Owls at Fort Hood or Union Grove WMA.

18 February – Field trip TBA (Suggestions?)

18 March – Field Trip TBA

15 April – Field trip TBA

15 May – Field trip TBA

July – Fort Hood and Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir 4th of July Butterfly Counts; dates TBA

Snack and Drink Sign-up

Snacks

Jan. 10 Jonnie, Louise R.
Feb. 14 Golda, Jack Williams
Mar. 14 Lana Shields
Apr 11 Marilyn Miller

Drinks & Ice

Gil Eckrich
Tom Robbins
Mary Voss

May 9 ?????????

??????????

BIRDS SEEN/BIRDS HEARD

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

<http://twinlakesaudubon.org/>

Christmas Bird Count Initial Results

The Bell County CBC (roughly; Temple south to Salado forms the west boundary; the east boundary is highway 95) was conducted on 17 Dec. The weather was cool, but otherwise ideal (dry and only light wind). Three of five groups had reported in by day's end. The groups that did not report in will undoubtedly add to the species tally. However, based on the three groups for which I do have results, the tally was 102 species. Based on these results, we had at least a good count and we may have a really good count when all is said and done. Some highlights based on the groups that reported in:

Canada Goose - 2 Stillhouse Hollow Res.
Hooded Merganser - 8
Common Loon - 17 Stillhouse Hollow Res.
Eared Grebe - 19 Stillhouse Hollow Res.
Great Egret - 1
Osprey - 3 Stillhouse Hollow Res.
Bald Eagle - 1 Stillhouse Hollow Res.
Red-shouldered Hawk - 13 (past high count was only 5!)
Crested Caracara - 3
Greater Yellowlegs - 6
Lesser Yellowlegs - 1
Least Sandpiper - 10 Salado
Common Ground-dove - 1 Darrs Creek Road
Say's Phoebe - 1
Winter Wren - 1 Holland
House Wren - 3
Marsh Wren - 1 Holland
Barn Swallow - 1 Holland sewage ponds
Brown Creeper - 2
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 3
Pine Warbler - 1 Salado
Black-and-white Warbler - 1 Salado
sparrows - 15 species of towhees/sparrows/juncos
Le Conte's Sparrow - 2

Gil reports that on in the morning of 20 December he spotted the brown pelican, which had eluded him during the CBC, from his deck, along with another bald eagle.

PLEASE report your sightings for inclusion!

Website

Our TLAS website, <http://www.twinlakesaudubon.org>, has been up for a couple of months now and I would appreciate any comments/suggestions on how to improve the site. I encourage more submissions of pictures to add to the gallery. Those of you who enjoy watching birds at your various feeders, how about picking up a camera and recording some of your feathered friends?



Twin Lakes Audubon

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

TEMPLE, TEXAS

PERMIT NO. 144

4501 Hickory Rd.
Temple TX 76502

Return Service Requested

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).**

OFFICERS/CHAIRS

President: Rich Kostecke

Tel: 254-547-2047

Vice President: Tom Robbins

Secretary: Golda Roberts

Treasurer: Scott Summers

Membership: Carol Ann Wadley

Publicity: Jonnie Summers

Newsletter: Gil Eckrich

geckrich@hotmail.com

Hospitality: Shirley Beyer

Finance: Jack Williams

Directors: Joye Johnson

Marilyn Miller

Jonnie Summers

Chapter Reps: Joye &

Corky Johnson

