



TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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

January, 2012



Greetings everyone!

First of all, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year and look forward to another great year of birding. Last month at our meeting we prepared for our annual Christmas Bird count and had a brief presentation given by Gil Eckrich on birds that are easy to misidentify. Tom Robbins also discussed the quadrants and the key leaders for each quadrant were identified. As for the Christmas Bird Count, it was a HUGE success, we had the highest number of species to date. I would like to personally thank everyone who participated that day, thank you for all your effort and dedication in making this a very successful bird count.

Just a reminder for those of you who pre-ordered TLAS T-shirts, they are in and can be picked up at our next meeting. If you didn't order a T-shirt and would like to get one, you too can pick one up at the next meeting. The cost is \$10 and sizes range from Medium to X-Large, all proceeds goes to the TLAS fund. The T-shirts will be available for sale until all are sold.

Next month our guest speaker will be Rich Kostecke, PhD, State Assoc. Director of Conservation - Research & Planning for The Nature Conservancy of Texas. He will give a presentation on the TNC preserves in Texas and the scientific research being conducted there. Our field trip will be an afternoon field trip on January 14th to the West Range of Ft. Hood. Participants should get to see Burrowing Owl, Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Mountain Bluebirds, Say's Phoebe, and many other species. For the hardy folks who stay until dark, there is the possibility of seeing a Short-eared Owl.

I am proud to announce that we no longer have a vacancy in the position of Chapter Vice President!! **Thank you**, Bert Pope, for volunteering to fill that vacancy for the next 2 years.

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

10 January 2012: Rich Kostecke, PhD, and former TLAS member and Prez, will give a presentation on preserves of The Nature Conservancy in Texas and studies of their flora and fauna.

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

14 January 2012: Afternoon/evening trip to Fort Hood’s west range to observe burrowing owl(s), other raptors, and sparrows. We'll meet at 3 pm at the junction of Elijah and Georgetown roads on Fort Hood. Basically, take Highway 190 into Copperas Cove. In Copperas Cove, take Highway 116 north 5.5 miles towards Gatesville. Within the 1st mile, you will go through 2 stop signs and 2 traffic lights and the road will zig-zag a bit as you drive through downtown Copperas Cove. After 5.5 miles, you will turn right (east) onto Elijah Road. You will cross a cattle guard and enter Fort Hood at that point. Speed limit is 50 mph along Elijah Road. Then take Elijah Road east 3.1 miles to the junction of Elijah and Georgetown Roads. Those of you who in past years took Main Str through Cove, then entered Fort Hood on Georgetown Road, be advised that Georgetown Rd is closed due to bypass construction.

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>
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/>

Anyone who has not already done so, might want to consider a short drive to Granger Lake. Wanda and Gil Eckrich drove there the morning of 31 Dec and were rewarded with good looks at one Whooping Crane family of three nearby, and another family group flying in the distance. Other birds seen there include 5 Black-bellied Plovers, Ross's Geese, American White Pelicans, and many other water-related species. It is easy to find these birds: take Hwy 95 south to the town of Granger, turn left on FM 971, and continue until you see sign to Corps of Engineers Friendship Park, turn right. Continue on that road, passing the closed entry gate and proceed to a parking area for the boat ramp. The cranes and most of the other birds could be seen from the water's edge looking in SSE direction. Spotting scope is not required but definitely worthwhile bringing. Pic is of an adult whooper, a juvenile, and 2 pelicans.



On 30 December Gil Eckrich scouted Fort Hood West Range in preparation for upcoming field trips to that location. Some of the species he recorded include Mountain Bluebirds, Chestnut-collared Longspurs, Burrowing Owl, Say's Phoebe, and a rich assortment of ducks, sparrows and raptors.



Christmas Bird Count Report: As many of you already know, this year's total of 126 species easily surpassed the previous high count of 116 in 2006. This [link](#) will take you the complete interim list. Here are a few photos of some of the outstanding species that were seen.



Black Phoebe and Rough-legged Hawk by Randy Pinkston; Rock Wren by Sabrina Nicholson; Rusty Blackbird by Eric Runfeldt; and Zone-tailed Hawk by Mike Heimbuch



Twin Lakes Audubon Society

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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
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Membership: Carol Ann Wadley
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