



THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 9 ISSUE 5

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January 2014



Photo by Kathy Cantu



Photo by Sabrina Nicholson

Greetings everyone from your President!

Where are the birds?

Activity around my bird feeders seems less than previous winters. The resident Cardinals, Carolina Chickadees, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue Jays and Titmice are around. A blight of House Sparrows is a new visitor. But where are the House Finches, Downy Woodpeckers and American Goldfinches?

We look forward to observing the Goldfinches each winter. But their numbers at the feeder vary each year. One year we counted over 40 Goldfinches around the feeder at one time. Other years we only see two or three at a time. So far this year we've been shut out.

It's not just our back yard, the most recent U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service Whooping Crane Update reports the two marked Whooping Cranes that used the Granger Lake area last year have both been hanging out around the Aransas Refuge most recently. So, we will enjoy the birds that are visiting our feeders and hope others may show up next year.

Thanks to all the participants in the CBC on Saturday, December 14. It was a cold day but we had a good time. Tom's initial report is elsewhere in this newsletter and I look forward to hearing his CBC report at the meeting.

Happy New Year!! See you at the TLAS meeting on January 14, 2014.

Bert Pope

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

14 Jan – Becky Peak, Fort Hood Biologist, will give a presentation on the Final Report of the Mist-netting Project in Mexico. She gave an initial presentation on this interesting project back in November, 2011.

11 Feb – Birding in northern Central America and Guatemala, presented by Randy Pinkston

11 Mar – **NO Meeting**

08 Apr - TBD

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



FIELD TRIPS

24-26 Jan 2013 – Field trip to the Lower Rio Grande River Valley. We will meet late afternoon of the 17th and drive to Brownsville to see parrots of several species, and in good numbers, coming into a municipal park to roost for the night. The next day will be dedicated to hitting state and national parks in the area, and conclude with Laguna Seca on the last morning, prior to driving home.

Feb – Berry Springs Park in Williamson County

Mar – TBD, up to members to decide

26 Apr – Warbler Woods

May – Bald Eagle nest on the Lampasas River on private ranch near Maxdale. Details forthcoming and will be based on nest status/timing

Snack and Drink Sign-up

DATE	SNACK	SNACK	DRINKS & ICE	PAPER GOODS Cups,napkins,plates
14 Jan	Golda Roberts	Ronnie Collins	Liz Cowan	Tom R.
11 Feb	Kathy	Elaine Horton	Marilyn Miller	Elaine Horton
MARCH	NO MEETING			
8 Apr	Sabrina	NEEDED	Marilyn Miller	NEEDED
13 May	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING			

BIRDS SEEN AND HEARD

Here is Tom Robbins' report on the 2013 CBC! It appears that we had 109 spp. of birds counted. We had 22 participants including Bill Wright of Houston and Chuck Smith of Austin. Here is the list of species found:

Wood Duck, Gadwall, Am. Wigeon, Mallard, N. Shoveler, N. Pintail, Am. Green-winged Teal, Canvasback, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Pied-billed Grebe, Eared Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, N. Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Crested Caracara, Am. Kestrel, Merlin, Am. Coot, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Wilson's Snipe, Bonaparte's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Inca



Eastern Towhee

Dove, Greater Roadrunner, E. Screech-owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, N. (Yellow-shafted)



Grasshopper Sparrow

Flicker, E. Phoebe, Loggerhead Shrike, Blue Jay, W. Scrub-jay, Am. Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Black-crested Titmouse, Hybrid titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Bewick's Wren, House Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, E. Bluebird, Hermit Thrush, Am. Robin, N. Mockingbird, Eur. Starling, Am. Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler, Pine Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Spotted Towhee, E. Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Harris' Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed (Sl.-col.) Junco, N. Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, meadowlark sp., Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Great-tailed Grackle, Br.-headed Cowbird, House Finch, Pine Siskin, Am. Goldfinch, House Sparrow.

An additional 5 species were reported during the official count week: Common Loon, Short-eared Owl, Canyon Wren, Blue-headed Vireo, and Lesser Goldfinch.

Correction: The December Newsletter stated that a Thayer's Gull, reported by Gil Eckrich was a county first. This was in error – Randy Pinkston discovered a 1st-cycle Thayer's Gull at Temple Lake Park 10 years earlier, on 28 October 2003.

And, Randy has struck again! On 29 December he found a Couch's Kingbird on Hickory Road in Temple.



Twin Lakes Audubon Society

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Return Service Requested

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 Cathy Cantu @254-541-3689 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).

