Dear Friends,

I hope you are seeing some great birds! We have now reached the peak of the spring migration, and numerous flycatchers, vireos, warblers, grosbeaks, and orioles should be present. At least some of these migrants will linger through the month and even into early June. Even though our official TLAS events wrap-up for the year this month, I urge you to get out during the summer months, on your own or with some of your TLAS friends. Despite the heat, there are plenty of interesting critters to observe. Starting in mid-July, the southward shorebird migration begins. Also in mid-July, the first southward bound Rufous Hummingbirds will make their appearances at feeders. Wandering coastal waders (Roseate Spoonbill, Tri-colored Heron, White Ibis) also begin to make appearances in July. Please let us know if you see any of these species! Further, the summer months are great for bugs (and not just the annoying ones like chiggers, mosquitoes, and ticks)! A diversity of odes (damselflies and dragonflies) and butterflies can be enjoyed during the summer.

Speaking of the bugs, last year, on somewhat of a whim, I organized 4th of July Butterfly Counts at Fort Hood and Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir. These counts are set up similarly to Christmas Birds Counts. Due to the short notice and lack of advertisement, participation was low, however. I would like to improve participation this year. You do not necessarily need to know your butterflies to participate either. It helps just having extra eyes to spot them. Further, even though some of us will be out butterflying for most of the day, you can generally participate for as long as you wish. If your house falls within the count circle, you can even just report the butterflies you see in your back yard. Details on these counts (when and where to meet, etc.) are listed in the events section of the newsletter.

In other news, our chapter successfully obtained a $500 grant from Audubon Texas and Earthshare of Texas to be applied to an LCD projector for the chapter (the projector we have been using is borrowed). We should have the new projector before our next meeting, which is in September.

I hope to see you at the meeting on Tuesday 9 May. Remember, this meeting is the membership slide show, show-and-tell, and plant swap. For the slide show portion, we will have a laptop and LCD projector (just bring your pictures on a CD or memory stick). If you plan to bring actual slides, please let me know beforehand so that I can secure the use of a slide projector. Also, snacks for this meeting are potluck. So, please bring something edible to share. Finally, I hope you can participate in the field trip on Saturday 13 May! In the past, our May field trips have produced a variety of interesting migrant warblers and the like. Otherwise, I will see ya'll in September!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

May 2006
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
9 May – Annual membership slideshow, show-and-tell, plant swap, etc.

Field Trips
15 May – Field trip to Dana Peak Park, Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir. Meet 08:00 at the unpaved parking lot right after entry into park (See http://twinlakesaudubon.org/Maps/Dana%20Peak.png)
July – Fort Hood and Stillhouse Hollow Reservoir 4th of July Butterfly Counts; dates TBA

Snack and Drink Sign-up

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<tr>
<th>Snacks</th>
<th>Drinks &amp; Ice</th>
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<td>May 9</td>
<td>EVERYONE</td>
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April 15 Field trip report

Our field trip to Lana Shields property on Lake Belton yielded some good birds, including a Peregrine Falcon, and great lunch and dessert! Our turnout of four participants was a bit meager, but Easter weekend is probably NOT the ideal time to schedule a field trip – lesson learned!

Our 13 May field trip will be to Dana Peak Park on Stillhouse Hollow. We will be met by two of Fort Hood’s researchers who are looking at late-season black-capped vireo productivity, including some vireos on Corps of Engineers land at Dana Peak. They will likely show us a vireo nest, and if appropriate, a mist-netting attempt to band. Dana Peak is an interesting and diverse habitat area that could produce some uncommon birds (had lazuli bunting there two years ago). Hope to see you there.
BIRDS SEEN/BIRDS HEARD
For up-to-date reports of bird sightings, go to the TLAS website!
http://twinlakesaudubon.org/

On 22 April, Gil Eckrich and Rich Kostecke lead a tour of Fort Hood for Bastrop Audubon Society. Primarily due to poor trail conditions following last Thursday night's storm, we were more limited than usual in our birding options. We primarily birded in the vicinity of the EFMB parking lot (where all of our field trips begin), the willows on the south-side of Cowhouse Creek, and the south shore of Belton Lake. Overall, the birding was a wee bit little slow (few migrants and not all of our breeding individuals and species have trickled in yet), though there was still plenty of interest to see and hear. Highlights from the approximately 4.5 hrs we were in the field: WOOD DUCK: 1 drake, GREAT BLUE HERON: 10+ (including birds in an active rookery), GREAT EGRET: 2, CATTLE EGRET: ~60 (most in a flock observed after the tour), GREEN HERON: 4+, OSPREY: 1, maybe 2, BROAD-WINGED HAWK: 2 overhead FRANKLIN'S GULL: 2 far out on the lake, SPOTTED SANDPIPER: 3 ASH-THROATED FLYCATCHER: 5, EASTERN KINGBIRD: 1 fly-over, BLACK-CAPPED VIREO: 1 male (everyone got decent to good looks) RED-EYED VIREO: 5 (good looks were had of a few, but mostly heard) TREE SWALLOW: 1 (most likely a local breeder) GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER: 4 (1 heard only, glimpses at 2, and finally a good look at a male) PROTHONOTARY WARBLER: 1 heard only and very briefly YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT: 1 heard only SUMMER TANAGER: 3 (males and female) CLAY-COLORED SPARROW: 4 INDIGO BUNTING: 1 heard only PAINTED BUNTING: 23 (most singing while remaining hidden in shrubs/trees)

On the afternoon of 20 April, Rich drove out to Lometa Reservoir. Highlights: Cattle Egret ~25, White-faced Ibis 1, Osprey 1, American Golden-plover 2, Semipalmated Plover 1, Lesser Yellowlegs 1, Semipalmated Sandpiper 3, Western Sandpiper 2, Least Sandpiper 2, Baird's Sandpiper 4, Pectoral Sandpiper 1, Stilt Sandpiper 1, Wilson's Snipe 4, Franklin's Gull 3

On 21 April, Rich found Wood Duck - 15 Lampasas, Pied-billed Grebe - 2 Sulphur Creek, Hancock Park in Lampasas, Eared Grebe - 3 Lometa Reservoir Cattle Egret - ~35 Lometa Reservoir Green Heron - 5 Bald Eagle - 1 3rd year+ Lometa Reservoir Cooper's Hawk - 1 American Kestrel - 1 American Avocet - 1 Lometa Reservoir American Golden-plover - 1 Lometa Reservoir Semipalmated Plover - 2 Lometa Reservoir Greater Yellowlegs - 2 Lometa Reservoir Lesser Yellowlegs - 5 Lometa Reservoir Solitary Sandpiper - 1 Lometa Reservoir Spotted Sandpiper - 5 Lometa Reservoir Willet - 3 Lometa Reservoir Semipalmated Sandpiper - 5 Lometa Reservoir Least Sandpiper - 4 Lometa Reservoir Baird's Sandpiper - 12 Lometa Reservoir Pectoral Sandpiper - 4 Lometa Reservoir dowitcher sp. - 4 Lometa Reservoir Wilson's Phalarope - 9 Lometa Reservoir Wilson's Snipe - 2 Lometa Reservoir Franklin's Gull - 1 Lometa Reservoir Great-crested Flycatcher - 3 Western Kingbird - 1 Lometa Regional Park Scissor-tailed Flycatcher - 38 Bell's Vireo - 5 (various locations including Lometa Regional Park and Lometa Reservoir) Common Raven - 2 House Wren - 1 Hancock Park in Lampasas Nashville Warbler - 1 Bison Springs Park in Lampasas Summer Tanager - 1 singing along Simm's Creek Clay-colored Sparrow - 13 (Lampasas and Lometa Regional Park) Grasshopper Sparrow - 1 singing Lometa Reservoir Indigo Bunting - 3 Hancock Park in Lampasas Painted Bunting - 6 Orchard Oriole - 1 singing male Lometa Regional Park American Goldfinch - 16 Hancock Park in Lampasas

PLEASE report your sightings for inclusion!
Twin Lakes Audubon
3415 Whispering Oaks
Temple, TX 76504

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
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  Corky Johnson