

TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://www.twinlakesaudubon.org>

May 2007



President's Letter

Greetings Friends,

It does not seem so long ago that I assumed the mantle of President. Now, my two-year term is at its end and you are reading my last official letter to the membership. Where has the time gone? I would like to thank all of the officers, committee chairs, and board members who served with me. I greatly appreciate their efforts on behalf of the Chapter. They certainly helped to make my job easier! I would also like to thank you, the membership, for your interest and support during my term.

May 8th is our show-and-tell meeting. Please bring pictures to share (on CD or memory stick). If you have slides to share, please let us know in advance so that we can secure a slide projector. Also, please bring snacks to share.

May 8th is also our annual business meeting. We have several important items to vote on. First, the new officers and board need to be officially voted in. The ticket is as follows: Tom Robbins (President), Gil Eckrich (Vice-president), Teresa Erven (Secretary), Sabrina Nicholson (Treasurer), Joye Johnson (Board Member), Randy Pinkston (Board Member), and Carol Ann Wadley (Board Member). Second, as mentioned at last meeting and in past newsletters, the current officers and board have agreed to bring the idea of buying a laptop computer for the Chapter to the membership for a vote. Having our own laptop would ensure that there will always be a computer available if speakers need one for their presentations (currently we borrow a laptop or speakers bring their own). The laptop will also serve as home for our website. We can also use the laptop to electronically archive Chapter minutes, newsletters, reports, etc. I have been assured that the laptop should cost no more than \$900. That sounds like a large sum, but we currently have ~\$5,400 in the bank.

I would also like to have a discussion at the meeting about what YOU want from YOUR Chapter. Suggestions for conservation/education activities, field trips, newsletter content, speakers, website content, etc. would all be welcome. I will then pass these suggestions on to the new President, officers, and board. The health of the Chapter is dependent on you. So, I urge you all to speak up and be active in the Chapter.

Finally, our May 12 field trip will be to Lampasas County. The plan will be to bird the city parks of Lampasas for migrant songbirds and then move over to Lometa Reservoir for grassland and waterbirds. We will meet at 0700. Hopefully the pain of this relatively early meeting time will be offset somewhat by the fact that we will be meeting at the Brick Oven Bakery in Kempner (their pastries are a good cure for morning grumpiness).

Also, I want to get a list of people (and their contact info) who are interested in participating in our two local 4th of July Butterfly counts. The Fort Hood count will be held on 30 June and the Stillhouse Hollow count on 7 July. Since both occur during our summer recess, there will not be other meetings or newsletters where I can easily remind you about them (of course, info will be posted on our website, which, I am sure, each of you checks weekly). So, if potentially interested in participating in these events, please let me know. Cheers,

Rich Koetecke

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.

8 May 2007: Membership slide show and annual business meeting.

Field Trips

28 April: Spring bird count

12 May 2007: Lampasas County, including Lampasas City Parks and Lometa Reservoir. We will meet at 0700 hours at the Brick Oven Bakery in Kempner (directly on Hwy 190)

30 June 2007: Fort Hood 4th of July Butterfly Count

7 July 2007: Stillhouse Hollow 4th of July Butterfly Count

Snack and Drink Sign-up

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Snacks
08 May **Everyone**

Drinks & Ice
Terie & Steve Snyder

Some Thoughts provided by Carol Ann Wadley

1) HEB has on sale a lovely book, **IMAGES OF CONSERVATION, BOOK ONE, HILL COUNTRY EDITION**. I believe it is sponsored by Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. The photos of Texas animals and scenes are exquisite and stories about Texas ranches are very interesting. I have already bought 4 copies for Christmas presents.

2) The following is a quote from a Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute newsletter written by Cathryn Hoyt, PhD, I think it profoundly interesting and describes most Audubon members:

"I started looking at the way that naturalists define themselves. When John Treadwell Nicholas-curator of the American Museum of Natural History between 1920 and 1941- was asked what a naturalist was he replied:

Well, I would propose that a naturalist is a person whose curiosity is boundless. He or she is interested in kinkajous and sticklebacks, in astronomy, French wine, magpies, baseball, prairie rattlesnakes, quantum mechanics, corn on the cob, great sperm whales, and even Bolsheviks and hummingbirds. A naturalist is a person who tries to delight in everything, is in love with the whole of life, and hopes to walk in harmony across the earth. "

BIRDS SEEN/BIRDS HEARD

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

<http://twinlakesaudubon.org/>

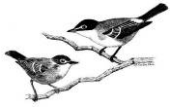
On 15 April Gil Eckrich and Sabrina Nicholson spotted a large (~200) flock of Cattle Egrets in an area of old borrow pits on south shore of Lake Belton, on Fort Hood. Deciding to drive closer to get some pics, they spotted 5 White-faced Ibis!

On 14 April, Rich Kostecke and Gil Eckrich lead 19 participants on the Twin Lakes Audubon Society field trip onto Fort Hood (Bell Co.). The wind was brutal and the temperature was cool, which kept most of the songbirds down, but we did get everyone looks at a Black-capped Vireo and a Golden-cheeked Warbler. There was also a lot raptor and swallow activity. Highlights: American White Pelican 22, Cattle Egret 83, Osprey 3, Northern Harrier 2 Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Swainson's Hawk 22, American Kestrel 12, Solitary Sandpiper 2, Spotted Sandpiper 2, Ring-billed Gull 1, Franklin's Gull 9, Forster's Tern ~3, Belted Kingfisher 1, Ash-throated Flycatcher 3, Black-capped Vireo 1, Cliff Swallow 215, Cedar Waxwing 10, Golden-cheeked Warbler 1.

Being the birding glutton that he is, Rich made afternoon birding stops in the Temple area (Temple Lions Park, Shallowford Rd, flooded fields). Highlights: Blue-winged Teal 78, Lesser Scaup 14 Slough pond along Shallowford Rd, Temple Pied-billed Grebe 1 Slough pond along Shallowford Rd, Temple American White Pelican 645 (2 flocks of 365 and 280 pelicans overhead) Little Blue Heron 14 Temple Lions Park Snowy Egret 3 Temple Lions Park Cattle Egret 32 Osprey 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk 1 Cooper's Hawk 1 Swainson's Hawk 1 Semipalmated Plover 2, my first of the season Lesser Yellowlegs 16 along Shallowford Rd, Temple Solitary Sandpiper 3 along Shallowford Rd, Temple Semipalmated Sandpiper 1, my first of the season Least Sandpiper 8 Baird's Sandpiper 4, my first of the season Monk Parakeet 2 Temple Chimney Swift 3 Western Kingbird 2 Barn Swallow 57

In the afternoon of 13 April Randy Pinkston found a banded Piping Plover on private property in Temple. It was another record-breaking shorebird afternoon with seventeen species. Here's the rest of his list from the same area: American Golden-Plover...(9) Semipalmated Plover...(4) Killdeer...(2) Spotted Sandpiper...(1) Greater Yellowlegs...(1) Lesser Yellowlegs...(30+) Solitary Sandpiper...(2) Upland Sandpiper...(5) Semipalmated Sandpiper...(25) Western Sandpiper...(6-8) Least Sandpiper...(50) Baird's Sandpiper...(50)...including one partial albino with snow-white nape and back Pectoral Sandpiper...(73) Stilt Sandpiper...(1)...FOS Long-billed Dowitcher...(16) Wilson's Phalarope...(3)
There was also a lone Greater White-fronted Goose at the edge of the flooded area with no evidence of injury.

PLEASE report your sightings for inclusion!



Twin Lakes Audubon

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OFFICERS/CHAIRS

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Vice President: Tom Robbins

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geckrich@hotmail.com

Hospitality: Shirley Beyer

Finance: Jack Williams

Directors: Joye Johnson

Gil Eckrich

Jonnie Summers

Chapter Reps: Joye &

Corky Johnson

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).

