



# THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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November 2013



*Greetings everyone from your President!*

## Maybe it's in the genes?

Looking out of the kitchen window, I realized that most of my recent observations at the bird feeders have been “squirrely”!! The neighborhood squirrels have launched a major offensive on the sunflower seed ball feeder. The squirrels’ attempts to unload the feeder brought to mind my Dad’s attempts to foil the squirrels that attacked my Mother’s bird feeders. Mother was the “birder”; Dad was in charge of “bird feeder” security. He found hours of enjoyment watching the squirrels’ attempts to solve his latest feeder adaptations.

My interest in birds came from my Mother. She loved to watch them and kept her life list in her small green “A Field Guide to the Birds of Texas” by Roger Tory Peterson, 1960 edition.

I was pleasantly surprised when my sixteen year old grandson wanted help identifying a bird he had seen at the house on Possum Kingdom Lake. As he described the bird, I had decided it was a female Cardinal until he said “it looked like a female cardinal but it had an almost completely gray body”. I then thought Pyrrhuloxia! I admit I have only seen Pyrrhuloxia in South Texas near Falcon Lake. Upon checking the local “Bird List” published by the Possum Kingdom Lake Visitor’s Assn., we found the Pyrrhuloxia is an occasional summer visitor to the area.

I was pleased my grandson took the time to look at the bird closely enough to be able to describe it. His great-grandmother would be very pleased. Maybe there will be another “birder” in the family.

I look forward to seeing you at the TLAS meeting on Nov. 12 at 7:00. Dr. Cathy Hoyt, director of the CDRI will present a program on Pollinators of the Davis Mountains. Cathy is the daughter of Carol Ann Wadley.

*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](mailto:gil.eckrich@att.net)



### PRESENTATIONS

12 Nov – Pollinators of the Davis Mountains, presented by Dr. Cathy Hoyt of the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute. This talk will include information and images of the Spotless Comma butterfly found by Dr. Hoyt in the Davis Mountains.

10 Dec – Preparation for Christmas Bird Count (CBC), including identification tips for difficult species.

14 Jan – TBD

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

**16 Nov** – Lake Mitchell, San Antonio. We will meet at 08:30 at the [Lake Mitchell Audubon Center](#).

**14 Dec** – Christmas Bird Count!!!

**January 2013** – How about an extended field trip to the Lower Rio Grande River Valley? Potential dates include the weekend of 25-26 Jan. We would meet late afternoon 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 would 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
12 Nov	Bert	Sue Lowry	Andrea Hankins	Deirdre Dawson
10 Dec	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING			
14 Jan	Golda Roberts	Ronnie Collins	Liz Cowan	Tom R.
11 Feb	Kathy	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>
MARCH	NO MEETING			
8 Apr	<b>NEEDED</b>	<b>NEEDED</b>	Marilyn Miller	<b>NEEDED</b>
13 May	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING			

## BIRDS SEEN AND HEARD

The 12 October Field Trip to Berry Springs did not have many TLAS birders, but lots of birds. Birders saw more than a dozen Lesser Goldfinches at a time, as well as dozens of Scissor-tailed Flycatchers. Wintering birds were just arriving, like a cooperative House Wren, but many winter guests were still on their way. Crystal Hammond spotted a Rock Wren near the top of the rip rap on the lake side of Stillhouse, and Gil and Kathy had great



looks at one near the spillway. This species was not seen at all last year.

Randy Pinkston spotted a Sedge Wren in the vicinity of the Chimney Swift tower that TLAS financially supported. Other recent arrivals include Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Blue-headed Vireo, Spotted Towhee, and many more. The elusive Mountain Plovers are back and freshly plowed fields along the county roads near Granger are some of the best places to see them. A few migrants like this Black-throated Green Warbler are also still passing through our area.





## Twin Lakes Audubon Society

P.O. Box 883

Belton, TX 76513

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](http://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).

