



TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://www.twinlakesaudubon.org>

October 2011



Greetings everyone!

First of all, let me briefly give you a recap from last month. At our meeting we had an interesting and very informative presentation regarding birds in Hawaii given by Tom Dove. For our first field trip, we explored the Belton Lake shoreline where we saw a variety of shorebirds; but, the undisputed highlights were a Northern Parula and a very cooperative Mourning Warbler.

Now time for an update from last month's meeting: We discussed and voted unanimously on helping to fund Rebecca Peak, and the work she does with endangered species in Central America. I am happy to report that all the items she requested has been purchased and delivered to her. She was very happy and grateful to receive all the items. Rebecca will be giving a presentation in November on the work she does so we look forward to hearing from her.

For those of you who are up and running on the internet, I would like to make you aware that Twin Lakes Audubon Society now has its very own Facebook page. The link is:

www.facebook.com/pages/Twin-Lakes-Audubon-Society/247380531971644. Anyone can go on there and post comments, view recent field trip pictures and view upcoming events. I will discuss this more at our next meeting and I will show everyone what the page looks like. My goal with this page is that we can reach out to others within the area who is interested in bird watching but maybe have no idea that we exist. I would like to see our chapter grow in membership and I would also like to reach out to the younger generation as well.

I would like to make a proposal to the chapter that we consider getting T-shirts printed with the words TLAS, Twin Lakes on the front and our logo centered on the back! I have gone to local printing shops and have received some quotes on what it would cost to get them printed and how much it would cost per person. This is a topic I would like to discuss in greater detail at our upcoming meeting in October.

We are still in dire need for someone to fill the vacancy of chapter vice president for the next two years. I need someone to please step up and take the opportunity to serve the chapter; the President can't do it alone. **I need to hear from YOU, the chapter membership, with ideas and hopefully suitable candidate(s) for the position of chapter vice president.** If you would like to volunteer you can email me at chammond_74@yahoo.com or you can let me know at our next meeting. I need to hear from someone soon regarding this vacancy

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

11 October: Dr. David Cimprich will talk on, "Habitat Use of Black-capped Vireo Fledglings". Many of you will recall the superb presentation David gave on banding birds at his house and the return rates of banded birds. This talk promises to be highly informative, dealing with the species that is part of our logo. He will discuss where the fledglings disperse to, until migrating south.

8 November: Open

13 December: Preparation for Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

10 January 2012: Open

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

15 October: Miller Springs Park. Meet 08:00 at the parking lot for the park, on north side of Belton Dam <http://www.ci.temple.tx.us/images/pages/N536/millerspringsmap.jpg> .

12 November: TBA

17 December: **Christmas Bird Count**

14 January 2012: TBA, perhaps field trip to Fort Hood's West Range for sparrows, pipits, horned larks, and owls

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

Snacks

Drinks & Ice

WE NEED MEMBERS TO SIGN UP FOR REFRESHMENTS

BIRDS SEEN/BIRDS HEARD

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

<http://twinlakesaudubon.org/>

On Monday, 3 October, Gil birded along the south shore of Lake Belton, which is rapidly revealing more and more mudflats. His highlight species were 5 American Golden Plovers. His complete list consists of 35 species: American Wigeon 2, Blue-winged Teal 10, Northern Shoveler 4, Pied-billed Grebe 3, Great Blue Heron 6, Great Egret 10, Snowy Egret 3, Little Blue Heron 2, Cattle Egret 8, White-faced Ibis 1, Turkey Vulture 15, Osprey 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 2, American Kestrel 3, American Golden-Plover 5, Killdeer 23, Spotted Sandpiper 1, Greater Yellowlegs 5, Lesser Yellowlegs 2, Least Sandpiper 27, Mourning Dove 2, Greater Roadrunner 1, Eastern Phoebe 2, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 2, Loggerhead Shrike 1, American Crow 35, Black-crested Titmouse 2, Eastern Bluebird 1, Northern Mockingbird 3, European Starling 3, Clay-colored Sparrow 2, Lark Sparrow 2, Savannah Sparrow 7, Northern Cardinal 4, House Sparrow 3

On Saturday, 1 October, Randy Pinkston had a solitary BB plover hanging with three Killdeers at the same location as above.

Daniel Hodges reports following birds found at Lometa Reservoir in late September:

White-faced Ibis - 33 on 27 September. Northern Harrier - 1 female on 27 September(my fos).

Merlin - 1 on 27 September. American Golden-Plover - 1 still there on 25 September.

House Wren - 1 on 27 September. American Pipit - 6 on 25 September. Black-throated Sparrow - 1 on 27 September. Savannah Sparrow - 1 on 27 September (my fos). Yellow-headed Blackbird - 1 on 27 September.

The water at Lometa Reservoir had dropped to extremely low levels this year, producing excellent shorebirding. In the last few weeks, water has apparently been pumped in, and most of the mudflats have been covered. This has greatly reduced the shorebirds here, but gives us hope for another great season for waterfowl.

