



THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 2 ISSUE 1

twinlakesaudubon.org

OCTOBER 2012

Greetings everyone from your President!

First of all, I would like to take this time to formally introduce our new members. Joining our chapter are: Carol Berridge, Grace and Esther Binkley, Darrell Crisp, Kathleen Cantu, and Annie Hudgens.

Now let me briefly give you a recap from last month. At our meeting we had a very informative presentation given by our very own Gil Eckrich on “Breeding Warblers of North America (Minus One)”. He showed beautiful pictures taken by him and Dr. Tom Dove of all the breeding warblers of North America (minus the Colima Warbler) to include: American Redstart, Bay-Breasted, Black and White, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Blue-winged, Black-throated Blue, Common Yellowthroat and the Golden -cheeked just to name a few. Gil explained the differences between the male and female of several species, to include the immature plumage as well. For our field trip we joined the Central Texas Audubon Society from Waco on a field trip to the beautiful Waco Wetlands. Between both groups we had a great turnout and saw a total of 21 different species to include: Green Heron, Neo-Tropic Cormorant, Northern Pintail, and the highlight of the trip was seeing a Broad-tailed Hummingbird. We also got to see a really big Wolf Spider, carrying its numerous young on its back!

This month for our guest speaker, we look forward to hearing from Dr. Terry Lairmore on “Photographing Hummingbirds”. Dr. Lairmore is a cancer surgeon, who lives in Harker Heights. He has over 35 years of experience with high speed photography, focusing specifically on hummingbirds. He has traveled to Alaska, California, the Catalina Islands, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Baja California to name a few and has logged over 5,000 photographs. He has currently seen and/or photographed 75 of the more than 330 species and subspecies of hummingbirds. So all you photography lovers you don’t want to miss this presentation!



Our Field will be on the 13th of October and we will be going to Miller Springs.

Crystal R. Hammond

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

9 October - Dr. Terry Lairmore “Photographing Hummingbirds”. Take a look at the Photograph imbedded in the front page of this newsletter, and this one. This presentation is one of the “MUST” ones for the year!



13 November - Gil Eckrich “Identifying Little Brown Birds’
- which Sparrow?”

11 December - Lianne Koczur – “American Oystercatcher
Research on Texas Coast”

8 January - Jim Hailey “Birding in Alaska”

12 February - TBD

16 March - Officer / Board Member Meeting “Time and Place TBD”

9 April - TBD

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



FIELD TRIPS

13 October - Miller Springs Nature Center. We will meet at the park at 08:00. Information and site map can be seen [here](#). Be prepared for some hiking; bring water and something to snack on. If you feel you may not want to participate in a hike, come anyway – we will simply split the group to accommodate everyone.

17 November - Hornsby Bend

15 December - Christmas Bird Count

December - Possibly a winter trip to the Rio Grande Valley

12 January - West Range Rd. Ft. Hood (joint trip with CTAS)

23 February - Llano Eagles Nest and Inks Lake Fish Hatchery

March - Possibly a trip to Sam Houston National Forest to see the Red-cockaded Woodpecker

13 April - T Messer Ranch

4 May - Warbler Woods

August - Summer trip to Davis Mountains

BIRDS SEEN / BIRDS HEARD

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

<http://twinlakesaudubon.org/>

On 26 September Gil Eckrich did a cursory bird survey at the South shore of Lake Belton on Fort Hood, and found the following species:



Blue-winged Teal 40, Great Blue Heron 4, Great Egret 7, Snowy Egret 1, Black Vulture 1, Turkey Vulture 17, Osprey 1, Killdeer 7, American Avocet 1, Mourning Dove 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker 1, American Kestrel 2, Eastern Phoebe 3, American Crow 5, Bewick's Wren 1, Eastern Bluebird 2, Lark Sparrow 3, Northern Cardinal 1

On 25 September Gil and Crystal Hammond birded both north and south shores of Lake Belton, and found following species, highlighted by a FOF (first of fall) Savannah Sparrow, and sighting a Semipalmated Plover: Blue-winged Teal 30, Great Blue Heron 5, Great Egret 15, Snowy Egret 3

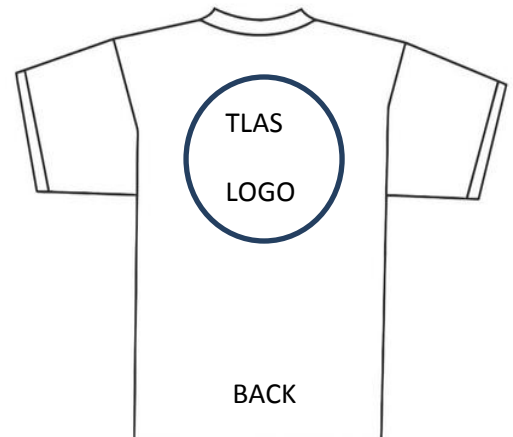
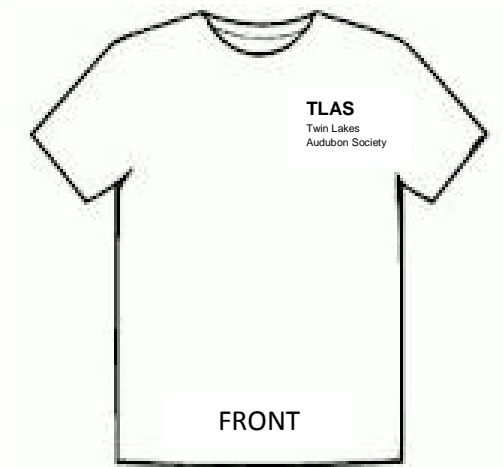
Black Vulture 3
Turkey Vulture 27
Osprey 3
Northern Harrier 1
Cooper's Hawk 1
Red-tailed Hawk 1
Semipalmated Plover 1
Killdeer 9
Spotted Sandpiper 3
Greater Yellowlegs 2
Least Sandpiper 100
White-winged Dove 2
Mourning Dove 5
Belted Kingfisher 1
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 1
American kestrel 3
Eastern Phoebe 2
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 2
Loggerhead Shrike 1
American Crow 17
Barn Swallow 1
Eastern Bluebird 2
Northern Mockingbird 1
Savannah Sparrow 1
Northern Cardinal 1



Snack and Drink Sign-up

DATE	SNACK	SNACK	DRINKS & ICE	PAPER GOODS(CUPS, NAPKINS,PLATES)
9-Oct	Carol Berridge	Kathy Cantu	Tom Robbins	Esther & Grace Binkley
13-Nov	Ilse Meier		Elaine Horton	
11-Dec	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING			
8-Jan				Crystal Hammond
12-Feb	Liz Cowan			Elaine Horton
12-Mar	NO MEETING DUE TO SPRING BREAK			
9-Apr	Mary Voss			Tom Robbins
14-May	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING			

TLAS T-SHIRTS FOR SALE



Cost: \$10

Color: Sand

Sizes: Medium to X-Large

Proceeds go to the TLAS fund

You can pick up your TLAS T-Shirt at our next meeting; they will be on sale until ALL are sold.

Minutes of the Twin Lakes Audubon Society (TLAS) Meeting

Sept 11, 2012

7 - 9pm

UMHB York Science Building, Belton, TX

24 members present

Crystal Hammond (President), opened the meeting at 7pm

Crystal yielded the floor to Margaret and Ilsa, the two co-chairs of refreshments.

New Visitors present: Margaret welcomed the 6 new visitors, and had them introduce themselves. A warm welcome was extended.

Hospitality: It was suggested we start the meeting with refreshments, and visit for 15 minutes before the business and presentation. All were in favor of this. Refreshments were enjoyed by all. A sign up list was circulated, requesting 4 people to help bring snacks, drinks and paper goods for the meetings that were not ALL host.

Ilsa had a raffle to give away a **flame acanthus**; names were entered in the drawing. Sandy won. These grow into beautiful shrubs, hummingbirds will visit.

The **lending library** was explained by Cathy, and made available during the meeting. Anyone may make contributions of magazines or books they are will to let circulate.

Bird Sightings were shared.

Membership: Carol Ann accepted dues, \$15 regular, \$10 students. A list was passed around to gather our names, phone numbers, addresses and emails. A current roster was also distributed.

Treasurer Report: Marilyn Miller reported we had \$4,939.32 in the account.

Flyers were available from Crystal to advertise our meetings, to be placed around town.

Presentation: Slide show of photos called **Warblers of America (minus one)** was enjoyed by all. It presented by Gil. Photos were contributed by Gil and Tom Dove.

Christmas Bird Count (CBC) will be on December 15, mark your calendars.

TLAS Tee-shirts are available for \$10.

Field Trip Saturday was discussed. Trip to the Waco Wetlands. Meet at the Belton Park and Ride alongside I-35 at 3pm. Proves to be a worth-while trip. Weather should be great. Sign-up sheet was passed around.

Meeting was adjourned with visiting, and cleanup.

C. Shoop (Secretary)

Local Membership only - 2012-2013

Join Now! Make checks payable to: Twin Lakes Audubon Society

General - \$15 Student - \$10

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Date: _____

CHECK ANY AREAS WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP:

Newsletter

Membership

Lead Field Trip

Speaker/Activities Leader

Programs

Hospitality/Snacks

Photography

Communication

Fundraising

Citizen Science

Bird Surveys

Computer Skills (labels, etc.)



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 Carol Ann Wadley @ carol@twinlakesaudubon.org 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).

