

TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

<http://www.twinlakesaudubon.org>

September 2008



Hi, everyone!

Welcome to another year of excellent birding and good company with the Twin Lakes Audubon Society. Our first meeting is 9 September at our usual location (see map in this newsletter). Our current slate of officers and board members is: 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).

Our first field trip will be 13 September to the Waco Wetlands, and there will be NO reason not to participate because of a too-early start time! We will be leaving from the Belton Park & Ride at 4 o'clock in the afternoon! Why so late? Well, it appears the best time to see the maximum number and species of birds is in the afternoon/early evening, when they come in to roost. Take a look at our TLAS website, [twinlakesaudubon.org](http://www.twinlakesaudubon.org), to see what we can expect to see there.

As fall migration gets under way, we can expect to see some interesting birds here in Central Texas. If you spot these birds, please notify Rich or Gil for posting on our website and for inclusion in the monthly summaries that Rich has been maintaining for over a year now. A review of what was reported a year ago can lead you to some good birding and also give everyone a better idea what to expect, or not. You are also encouraged to log on <http://ebird.org/content/tx/> to enter your observations into the ebird data base. Citizen science is important and was a vital source of data for the Audubon Society's list of America's most imperiled birds. The National Audubon website states, "Identifying the species at greatest risk is the first step toward saving them. It helps target public policies, funding support, conservation initiatives and public commitment on the species and habitats that need it most." Take a look at the list, page 3, of the top 20 common birds in decline and you will note that an overwhelming majority of them can be seen right here in Central Texas. An innocuous little bird like the field sparrow does not garner much attention, but then again, neither did the horned lizard that once was so abundant in this area.

So, grab some snacks, friends and your annual TLAS dues and we will see you on Tuesday, 9 September in Room 117, York Science Center, University of Mary Hardin-Baylor! As always, please feel free to make observations and recommendations to improve our chapter, our activities, and our website.

PRESENTATIONS AND FIELD TRIPS

Unless otherwise noted, the contact for programs is Gil Eckrich; Cell: 254-0534-0061, Email gil.eckrich@att.net and the contact for field trips is Rich Kostecke, Cell: 254-258-0936; E-mail: rkostecke@tnc.org or rkost73@yahoo.com.

09 Sep 2008: Waco Wetlands. Eric Haskell, Lake Ranger for Lake Waco, will talk on reasons for developing the wetlands, the design, and biodiversity.

14 Oct 2008: TBA

11 Nov 2008: Creatures (mainly birds) of Central America. Laura and George Murphy spent 10 days in Costa Rica and 3 in Panama in April and May of 2008. Besides the many exotic birds, they saw and took snap shots of reptiles, insects and mammals of the region. They'll share their trip and offer tips on traveling there.

09 Dec 2008: Christmas Bird Count planning and Christmas party

13 Jan 2009: TBA

10 Feb 2009: TBA. Nominate new slate of officers and one board member.

March 2009: NO MEETING

Apr 2009: TBA

May 2009: Membership slide show and annual business meeting, including election of officers and board member.

Field Trips

13 Sep 2008: Waco Wetlands. Meet at Belton Park & Ride at 4 p.m. (YES, you read correctly! In the afternoon!). Sunset will be 7:38 p.m., so we can count on 2 hours of good birding as the birds come in to roost.

18 October 2008: Open – SUGGESTIONS, PLEASE!

15 November 2008: TBA

14 December 2008: Christmas Bird Count – EVERYONE welcome, and needed. NOTE: Official CBC dates have not yet been announced.

17 January 2009: TBA

14 February 2009: Afternoon/evening trip to Fort Hood's west range to observe burrowing owl(s), other raptors, and sparrows.

14 or 21 March 2009: TBA

18 April 2009: Fort Hood with emphasis on Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo

16 May 2009: TBA

Snack and Drink Sign-up

09 Sep	<u>Snacks</u> Everyone	<u>Drinks & Ice</u> Gil Eckrich
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Combining Data from the Christmas Bird Count and the Breeding Bird Survey to Determine the Continental Status and Trends of North America Birds, National Audubon Society
Continental Trends for the Top 20 Common Birds in Decline

Species	Survey	Trend category	Change over 40 years	Average annual trend	2.5% CI (%change/yr)	97.5% CI (%change/yr)	Variance
Northern Bobwhite	combined	D*	-82%	-4.3	-4.9	-3.6	0.0968
Evening Grosbeak	combined	D*	-78%	-3.7	-4.8	-2.6	0.3305
Northern Pintail	combined	D*	-77%	-3.6	-5.5	-1.8	0.9289
Greater Scaup	CBC	d	-75%	-3.4	-9.2	0.7	14.5085
Boreal Chickadee	CBC	D*	-73%	-3.3	-4.6	-1.9	0.5036
Eastern Meadowlark	combined	D*	-72%	-3.1	-3.4	-2.8	0.0260
Common Tern*	BBS	D*	-70%	-3.0	-4.2	-1.9	0.1734
Loggerhead Shrike	combined	D*	-70%	-3.0	-3.5	-2.7	0.0420
Field Sparrow	combined	D*	-68%	-2.8	-3.2	-2.4	0.0407
Grasshopper Sparrow	combined	D*	-65%	-2.6	-3.3	-1.8	0.1411
Snow Bunting	CBC	D*	-64%	-2.5	-4.8	-0.5	1.2321
Black-throated Sparrow	combined	D*	-63%	-2.5	-3.9	-1.0	0.5614
Lark Sparrow	combined	D*	-63%	-2.4	-3.1	-1.7	0.1319
Common Grackle	combined	D*	-61%	-2.4	-3.1	-1.6	0.1379
American Bittern	combined	d	-59%	-2.2	-3.4	-1.0	0.3625
Rufous Hummingbird	BBS	d	-58%	-2.1	-3.6	-0.7	0.5631
Whip-poor-will	combined	d	-57%	-2.1	-2.9	-1.3	0.1799
Horned Lark	combined	d	-56%	-2.0	-2.8	-1.3	0.1514
Little Blue Heron	combined	d	-54%	-1.9	-3.7	-0.2	0.8123
Ruffed Grouse	combined	d	-54%	-1.9	-3.0	-0.8	0.2987

BIRDS SEEN/BIRDS HEARD

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

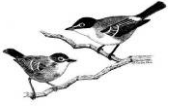
<http://twinlakesaudubon.org/>

On 23 Aug Sabrina Nicholson and Gil Eckrich spotted a Glossy Ibis and two White-faced Ibis at a North Fort Hood (Coryell) pond. The Glossy Ibis would be a first for Ft Hood and the county; but, being a young bird, the identification is not a certainty. Randy Pinkston, upon review of several photos, stated, “nothing about the bird is inconsistent with Glossy Ibis but I'm just not sure that what we see is 100% diagnostic in juvenal plumage,” and Eric Carpenter wrote, “...this is a good case for Glossy.” They also noted that a Pied-billed Grebe nest on the West Range had been successful, producing at least 5 chicks.

Gil Eckrich reported that as late as 14 August he had a Golden-cheeked Warbler at his house on Stillhouse Hollow, as well as 2 Black-throated Green Warblers.

Gil also reports observing a leopard frog on 24 Aug leaping about 20 inches into the air, vertically, to **try** to capture a hummingbird feeding on some salvia bloom near a small pond.

PLEASE report your sightings for inclusion!



Twin Lakes Audubon

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Hospitality: Shirley Beyer

Finance: Jack Williams

Directors: Joye Johnson

Randy Pinkston

Carol Ann Wadley

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).

