



THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 11 ISSUE 1

twinlakesaudubon.org

September 2016

Greetings everyone!

As we start a new year in the Twin Lakes Audubon Society, it seems a great time to be deliberately optimistic and think of things like New Year's Resolutions to help our TLAS chapter and bird conservation in general to move forward.

My resolution is to be personally involved in some activity that is helpful to the Miller Springs Alliance as it works to upgrade that outstanding Bell County park. We will ask Mary Ann Everett to update us on this project at our September meeting. Think about other activities we are, or could be, involved in, and how you personally might do something to improve that activity. Other things I think of quickly are the effort at being more interconnected with each other relative to bird sightings thru the internet, the early planning effort to convert the Bend of the River area into some sort of a "nature park", and trying to be more involved in the planning and execution of our Field Trip schedule to give Gil some help and relief. Of course, all these activities require many of us to be involved. The Christmas Bird Count is another obvious major effort that will need more than a few being involved to be successful. Think about it.

Another selfish resolution for me to target a couple of birds I've managed to so far miss that would be "lifers" for me. Of course, I'll name them hoping that all of you will then pass me tips and hints helping me to see these birds this year. They are Ross's Goose for Bell County and the Golden-winged Warbler and the Purple Finch for the State of Texas. Thanking you in advance -----

Sandy Lowry, Pres



May 2016 Field Trip Photos by Elaine Horton

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

13 Sep – Birding on Fort Hood. Scott Summers (Outreach Coordinator for FH Natural Resources) and Capt. Al Langford (Chief, FH Game Warden) will inform us on where and when to bird on Fort Hood, AND the regulations that apply to birding on the installation. Fort Hood is a great place to bird but definitely under-utilized due to perceptions about what is required to do so. This presentation is a must!

11 Oct – John Macey, Endangered Species Biologist for Golden-cheeked Warbler will discuss the use of geolocators to track the movement, breeding and wintering locations of songbirds.

15 Nov – Randy Pinkston will give a presentation on “Texas Pelagics”. Several TLAS members have participated in such trips and members will surely enjoy hearing and seeing about the fantastic wildlife seen out on the Gulf.

13 Dec – Preparation for Christmas Bird Count. Important to be there and sign up for which quadrant you’d like to participate in. Remember, you do NOT have to be an “expert” birder, eyes and ears count!

10 Jan – Bill Reiner, biologist for the City of Austin will give presentation on Golden-cheeked Warbler status and research in the Austin area.

14 Feb – Dr. Cathleen Early, UMHB professor, will talk on teaching ornithology and leading field trips for UMHB students – informative, hilarious, and a don’t miss!

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



FIELD TRIPS

17 Sep: Waco Wetlands (joint trip with CTAS). We will meet at the Waco Wetlands (directions <http://www.lakewacowetlands.com/map.html>) at 4pm, or for anyone interested in carpooling, meet at the Belton Park and Ride NLT 3pm. We will bird until dusk, hope to catch numerous wading birds flying in to roost, and perhaps some Barred Owls.

15 Oct: Lake Rogers & Eastern Bell County. This lake has become known as THE place to bird this time of year. Last year Virginia Rails, a tough species to see in Bell County, was easily and often seen.

17 Dec: Christmas Bird Count (CBC)!!!!

14 Jan: TBD

18 Feb: TBD

18/25 Mar: Sam Houston National Forest - Red-cockaded Woodpecker and other East Texas specialties

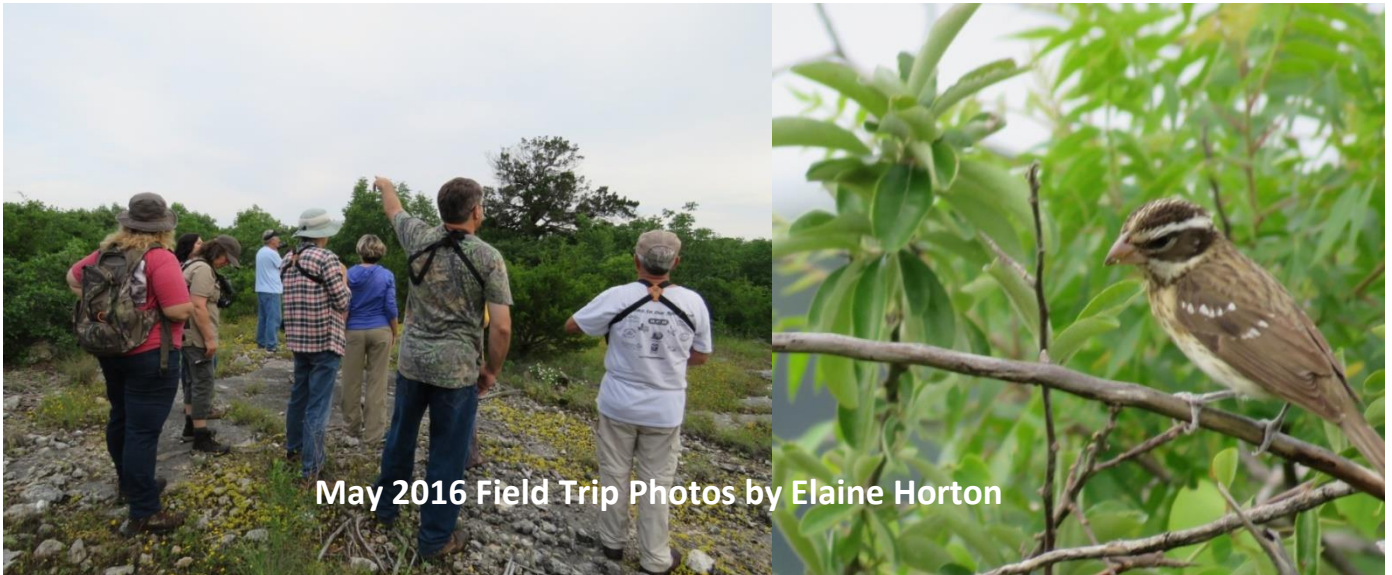
15 Apr: Messer Ranch! This is always a TLAS favorite and should not be missed.

13 May: Warbler Woods. We could not do the trip to see the Lake Waco eagle nest due to flooding and park closures – perhaps next year. Meet at 07:30. Coming from intersection of I-35 and HWY 190, turn right onto Loop 121 and drive north. Go 2.4 miles and turn left onto Sparta Rd at the third traffic light. Continue driving west, going through a stop sign at 5.4 miles. At a distance of 7.4 miles you will drive over a cattle guard - you are now on Fort Hood (Sparta road is now called North Nolan Road). Continue driving on the same road and past a sign to Belton Lake Outdoor Recreation Area (BLORA) at 7.5 miles. After 12.9 total miles you will come upon an intersection with a tank trail/improved dirt road. Turn right and *immediately* turn right again onto a large concrete pad where we will meet at 07:30. This is the same location we met at for recent field trips to FH. Be sure to wear long pants, sturdy shoes, and have insect repellent handy.

AUGUST: West Texas! We have several excellent destinations for such a field trip, if enough TLAS members are interested. Places include Big Bend, Davis Mountains, or even the Guadalupe Mtns.

Snack and Drink Sign-up

13 Sep	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING
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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

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).

