



THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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December 2018

Greetings everyone!

The Christmas Bird Count is in its 118th year and is a core of birding culture and is a great way to learn from your fellow birders. Participating in a TLAS CBC pushed me from being a casual birder to someone that forces his work colleagues to take a different exit from the building just in case we might find some cool birds. On my first count I got to spend time with a very experienced birder and saw more birds in a day than I had on my own in 2 years. I was able to hone my technique and make birding more productive and enjoyable.

I will not be available for the morning of the count but will try to make up in earnest in the afternoon. I encourage everyone to get out with us and count birds! In addition to being a great experience it adds to the knowledge of birds. It is slightly competitive with us trying to beat other CBCs. Did I mention it is a lot of fun?

Come to our meeting on Tuesday for information on our CBC strategy and remember that being a bird expert is not necessary. The more eyes out counting the better. Sometimes the newbie birder is the one that finds the best birds.

Thank you, *Nic Webster*



It is quite important to have at least one photographer in each Quadrant, preferably with each group. Photos were needed to 'prove' that American Avocet had been seen and also to call the other two birds 'Leucistic Chipping Sparrow'

UPCOMING EVENTS



PRESENTATIONS

08 Jan – Partners in Flight Jackelyn Ferrer Perez (Jacky), will give a presentation on Partners in Flight <https://www.partnersinflight.org/>, touching on PIFs involvement in avian conservation, how the committee has evolved over the years and their current mission

12 Feb – Delisting of the Black-capped Vireo – Dr. David Cimprich, who has been studying the Black-capped Vireo on Fort Hood for many years, will discuss the recent delisting of the species

09 Apr – Birds of Texas - Barry Noret, one of the founders of this amazing Facebook group (44,333 members!) will give a presentation on the founding of this amazing group, its current status and projects, and its future.

14 May - Picture Show and Tell, Everyone bring pictures to share! Please bring your pictures in digital format, either on a jump drive, or a CD/DVD. This has become a favorite event, and contributors are asked to limit themselves to no more than 10 images, unless otherwise coordinated in advance.



FIELD TRIPS

15 Dec: Christmas Bird Count! Start asking friends who live in our CBC circle if they have any unusual birds hanging around (Hummers!) See Section on the upcoming CBC in this newsletter.

29 Dec: East Waco CBC – This CBC circle has some very interesting habitat that is quite different from TXBU. Questions about participation can be addressed to Annette Jones, plawaco@aol.com, or Gil Eckrich

19 Jan: West Range Fort Hood – Last year this always popular field trip had to be cancelled due to government shutdown; so, we will try again!

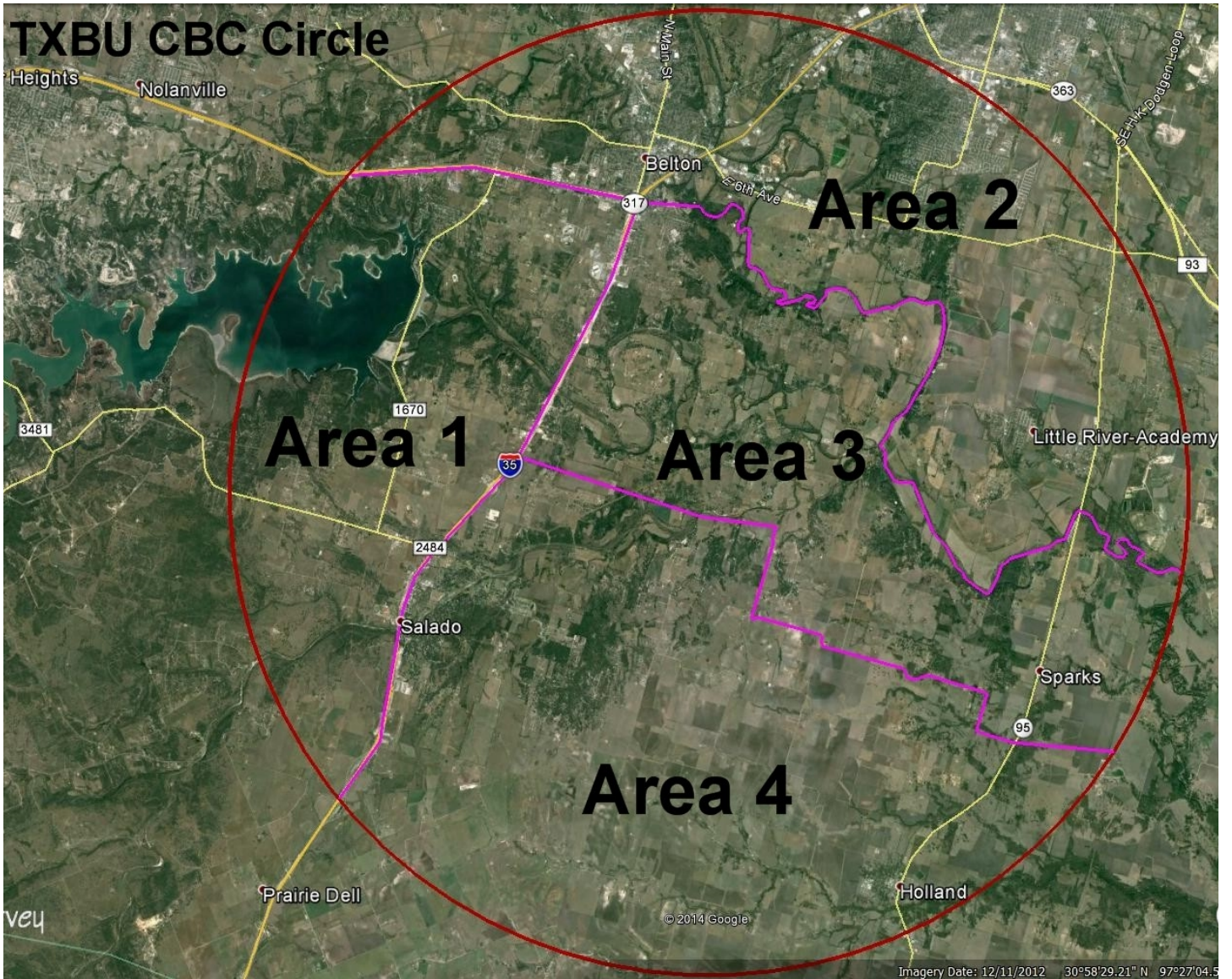
16 Feb: Berry Springs – It's been some time since TLAS did a field trip to this birdy location.

13 Apr: Miller Springs Park.

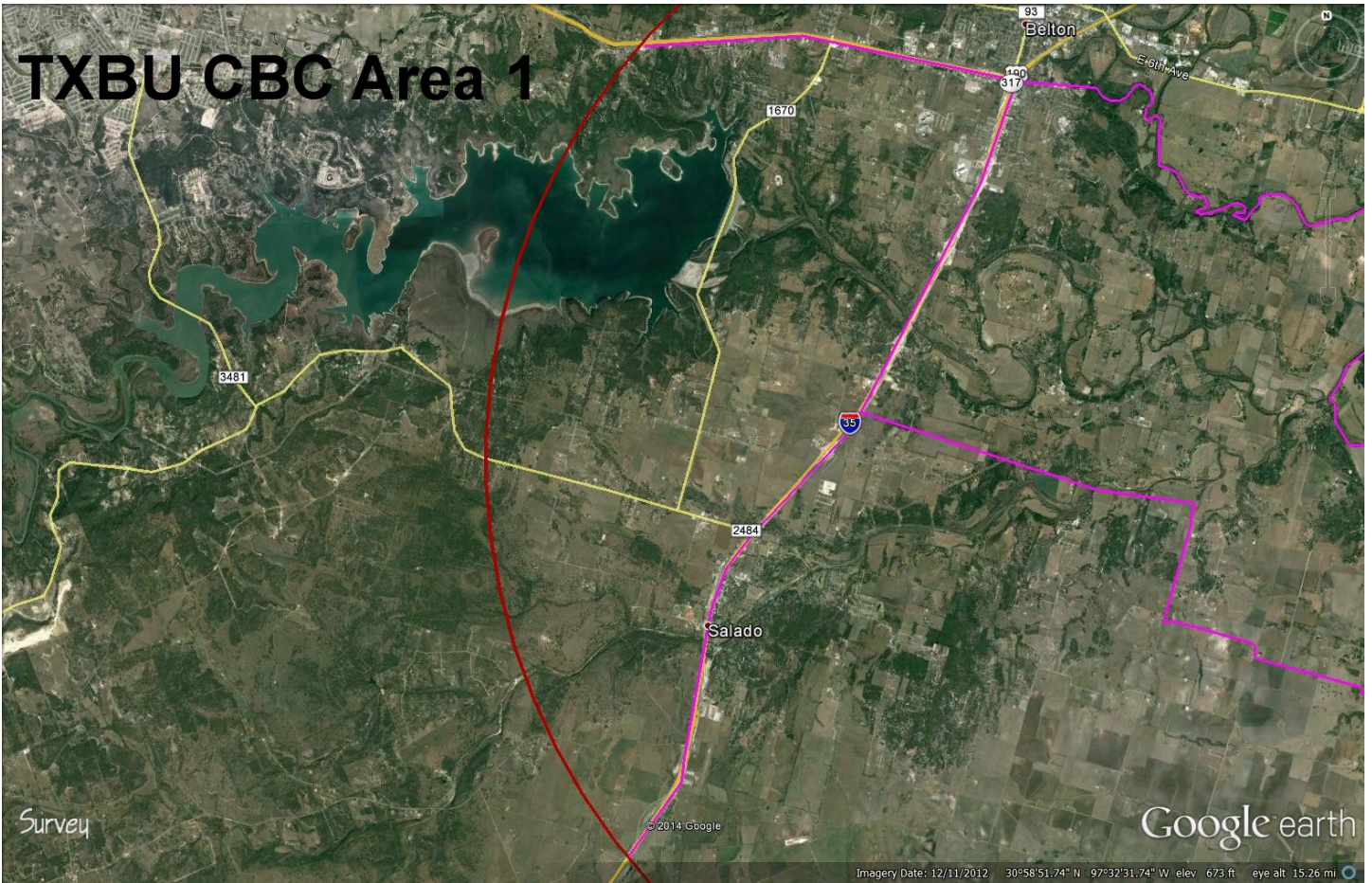
11 May: Warbler Woods! Probably best time of year to visit this amazing bird sanctuary! If lucky, we will see MacGillivray's and Golden-winged Warblers, among many other species. Note that this field trip is BEFORE our 14 May meeting; but, this is the premiere weekend to be there!

Snack and Drink Sign-up

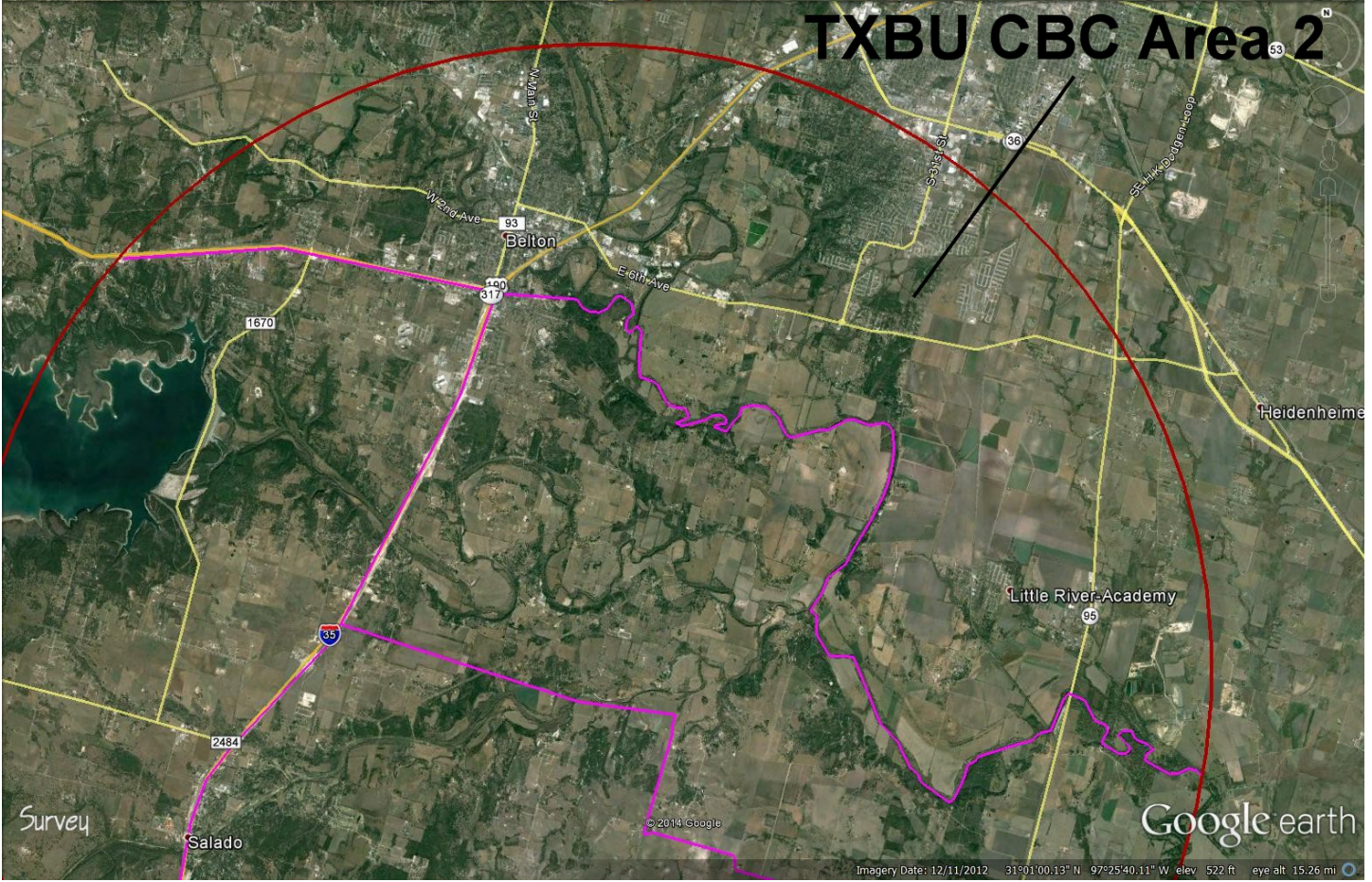
<u>DATE</u>	SNACK	SNACK	DRINKS & ICE	PAPER GOODS
11 December	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING			

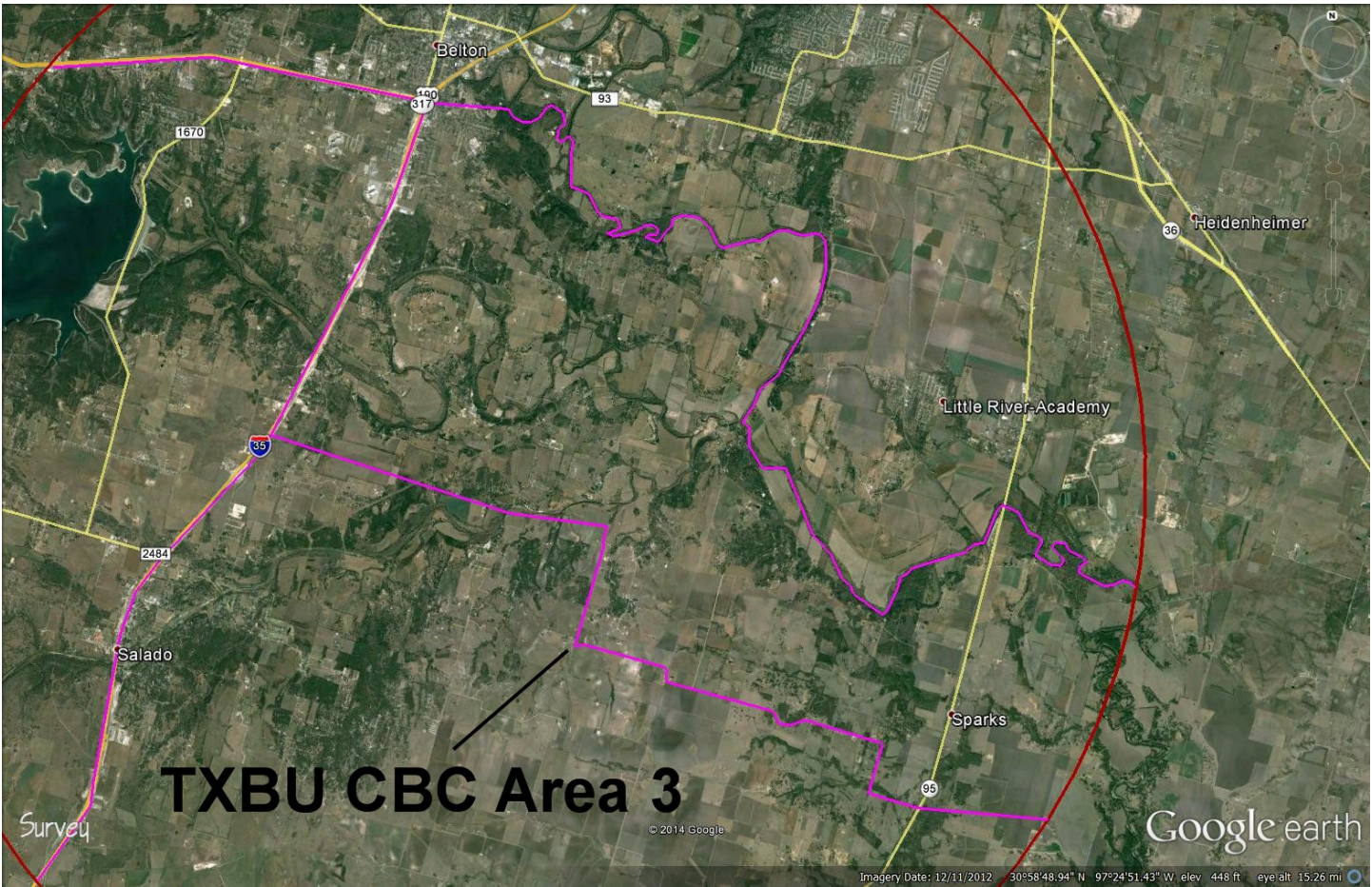


TXBU CBC Area 1

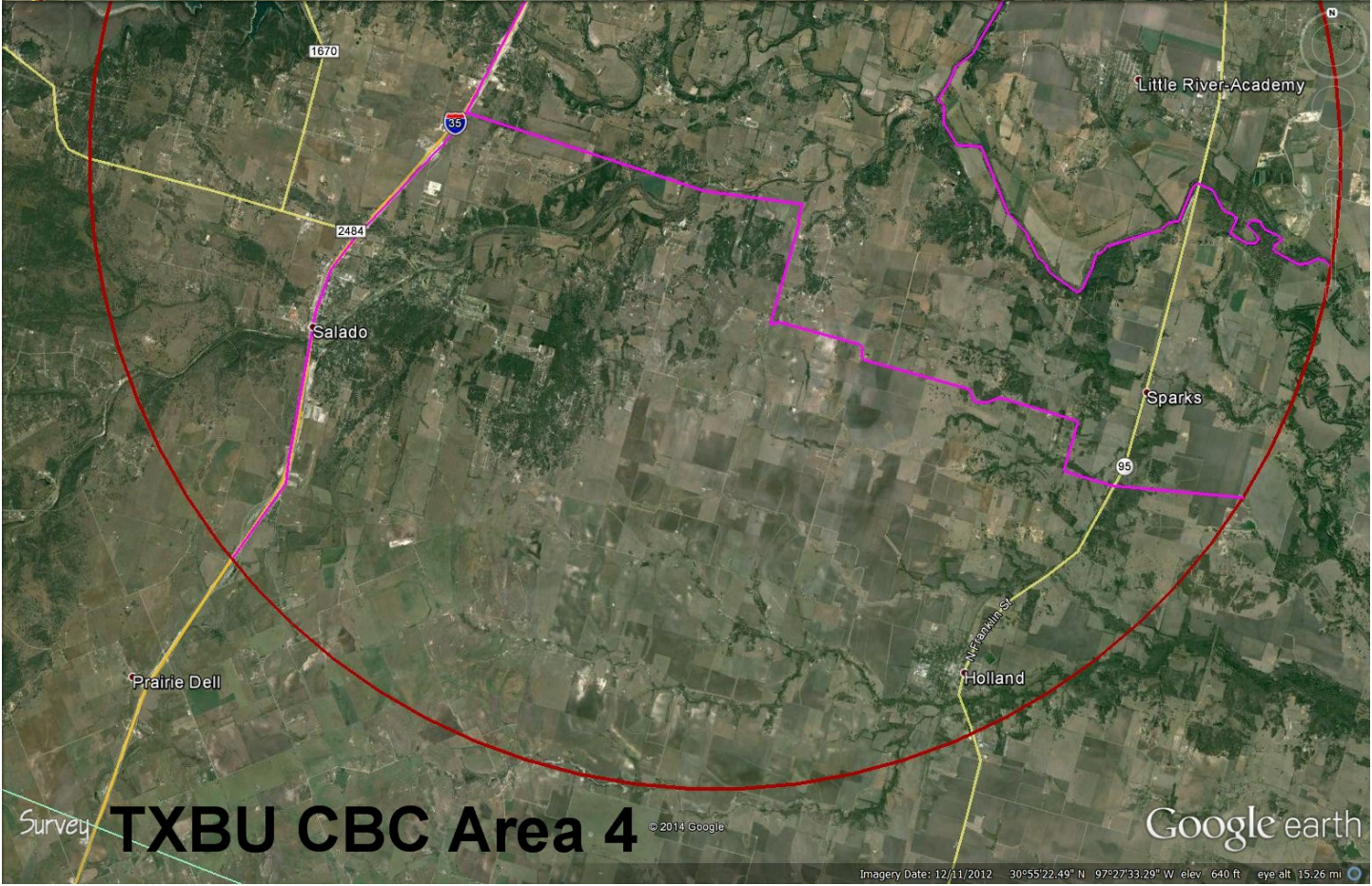


TXBU CBC Area 2





TXBU CBC Area 3



TXBU CBC Area 4

CBC Procedures and Tips

1. Keep records of everything!
2. Start and End Times
3. Distances traveled
 - a. On foot – recommend you use ebird app for any distance walked
 - b. Driving – submit ONE distance report for each group. That means if there are two vehicles in a group, only ONE is used for recording distance traveled
4. Record ALL species, including feral/domesticated
5. Try to photograph any species you are not sure of and which is not usually seen, according to ebird. If in doubt, call Gil 254-534-0061 and ask. If possible, a photographer will be sent to your location ASAP
6. Call back, use of recorded vocalizations, is allowed
7. See Audubon website on CBC - <https://www.audubon.org/conservation/science/christmas-bird-count>
8. When possible, use ebird to record your sightings, and share with other members of your group and especially our compiler, Mary Ann Everett
9. Try to attend the regular TLAS meeting on 11 Dec to become part of this important effort in citizen science



Twin Lakes Audubon Society

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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 Kathy 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).

