



# THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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[twinlakesaudubon.org](http://twinlakesaudubon.org)

February 2017

## *Greetings everyone!*

My birding enthusiasm these last two weeks has gone from generalized vagueness, to a very precise enthusiasm over the arrival, at least to our farm at Osage, of the American Goldfinches. We had purchased a new 3-column feeder along with two large bags of niger seed and had been putting the feed out for several weeks with no takers. But, about two weeks ago, they begin to roll in. Overwhelmingly, they seem to be male with bright yellow throats, and the yellow patch at the upper wing which I believe are the lesser coverts. Would like to hear from some of you experts out there if the males normally come in first in this winter migration that comes to us here in CenTex.

Two days ago, I got so excited I almost wet my pants when we had 13 birds on our feeder, and one more in the tree. Last year our all-time record was 21 birds at once on the feeder.

Did a little fact-checking on IBird, and apparently these little guys are quite common, with their estimated population at about 24 million. So, there will probably be no federal monies coming soon to encourage their breeding and nesting. Since they come to us in the winter, we wouldn't get the money anyway.

Though they usually head back north before they develop their black crowns, last year we had a couple who stayed long enough to show that here before they left. We can at least hope for this year.

So far, no Pine Siskins

Hoping that all of TLAS will enjoy these guys, and appreciate their stunning beauty.

See you at our meeting on Valentine's Day!

*Sandy Lowry*, Pres



Pics from January Field Trip

Conditions were NOT nice!  
Ten TLAS birders braved the 'brisk' conditions and were rewarded with great, hot chili, prepared by our hostess, Connie Cryar.  
Photos by Elaine Horton



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## PRESENTATIONS

**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!

### **March – No Meeting**

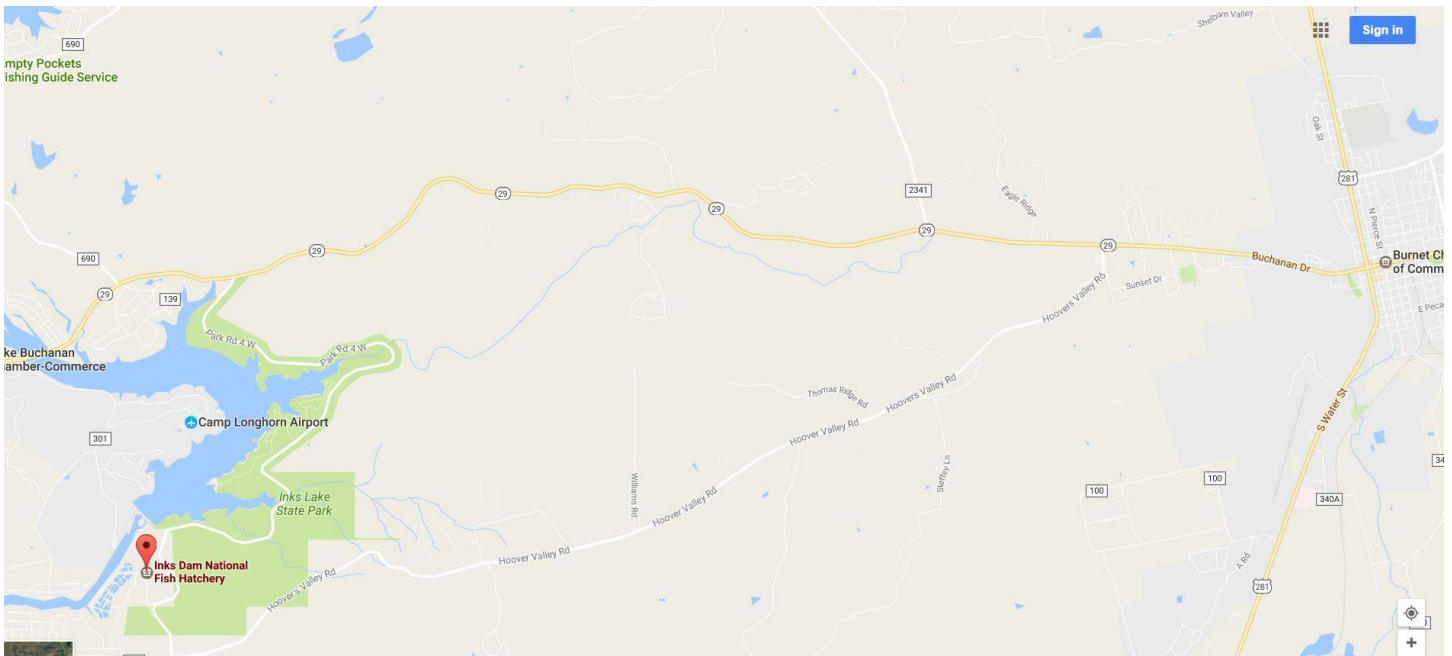
**11 Apr** – Zoe Rascoe on Bend of the River Botanic Garden: Bend of the River Botanic Garden (to be!) has a plan - a Master Plan! As 2016 came to a close, the City of Temple completed a community-wide planning process to turn the vision of a regionally significant botanic garden at Bend of the River into a reality. Zoe Rascoe, who at the request of the City has been involved with the project since the land was donated by the Talasek family in 2011, will provide some history on the project, highlight the Woodland and Bird Preserve, and give a virtual "A Walk Through the Garden." She will be interested in hearing how birders can be engaged with the Botanic Garden planning and what types of programming would be of interest. So come with ideas!

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



## FIELD TRIPS

**18 Feb:** Inks Lake Fish Hatchery and State Park (time permitting) Kathy Cantu will be the trip leader. Meet at 08:30 at the Hatchery Rest Room parking lot



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

**13 May: Warbler Woods. !!** <http://warblerwoods.org/> Driving there is up to each individual (directions below). While there is NO specific time to be at Warbler Woods, we are shooting for 08. For gate code, be at the 9 May TLAS meeting, or contact [Gil Eckrich](#). **WEAR YOUR TLAS T-SHIRT!!!**

### From Killeen/Belton

Take IH 35 towards San Antonio

Exit # 178(FM 1103)

Turn left on FM 1103

Turn right on Old Wiederstein Rd

Go past school and look for large green mailbox on left

19349 Old Wiederstein Rd, Cibolo

[Google Maps Link](#)

**11-13 AUGUST: Davis Mountains!** Trip will include State Park, Nature Conservancy Preserve, and Christmas Mountains Oasis.

## Snack and Drink Sign-up

<u>DATE</u>	SNACK	SNACK	DRINKS & ICE	PAPER GOODS
14 Feb	Carol Farek	Available	Elaine Horton	Available
March	NO MEETING DUE TO SPRING BREAK			
11 Apr	Available	Available	Marilyn Miller	Available
10 May	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING			





## 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](http://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).

