



# THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 9 ISSUE 2

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

October 2014



## *Greetings everyone!*

We had a great turnout and successful field trip to Union Grove Wildlife Management Area on 13 September. Although the downright chilly temperature, gusting wind, and long walk to the water were not ideal, the birds didn't care and were present, both in terms of species and numbers. Birds included a very cooperative Long-billed Curlew, White-faced Ibises, Wilson's Phalaropes, Pectoral Sandpipers, Osprey, Black-bellied Plover, and many more!

October promises to be a busy birding month with three events, starting with the monthly meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The presentation will be a hands-on explanation and use of ebird. On the 18<sup>th</sup> TLAS will have a station at the 2014 Central Texas Nature Fest sponsored by the Central Texas Master Naturalists at Bend of the River Park, Temple, from 09:00 to 14:00. Our site is a prime location right next to the river and we will set up scopes and have binoculars on hand to give a practical demonstration of birding. Hope you can make this inaugural event and bring binos and scopes. Be sure to tell folks at the entrance you are TLAS members. Our actual monthly field trip will be to Pepper Creek Trail in Temple.

TLAS T-shirts are still available and can be picked up at our next meeting. The cost is \$10 and sizes range from Medium to X-Large, all proceeds goes to the TLAS fund. The T-shirts will be available for sale until all are sold.

A sad note, Franke Gracia, who only recently became part of TLAS, did not survive a heart attack on 30 September. He taught mathematics at Temple College and had served his country in Afghanistan. He will be dearly missed.

## **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](mailto:gil.eckrich@att.net)



### **PRESENTATIONS**

**14 Oct** – How to get more out of ebird – practical demonstration for using this tool to improve your birding.

**11 Nov** – Randy Pinkston will give presentation on birding in Guatemala – LOTS images to enjoy!

**09 Dec** – Preparation for Christmas Bird Count (CBC), including identification tips for difficult species.

**13 Jan** – Melissa Brown will give presentation on the Baggett Country photo ranch, the destination for our January field trip.

**10 Feb** – John Macy, Natural Resource Specialist at Fort Hood, will talk about the status of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker and conservation measures being used for the species. This presentation will mesh nicely with the proposed field trip to Sam Houston National Forest to see this species.

**10 Mar** – **NO Meeting**

**07 Apr** - TBD

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



### **FIELD TRIPS**

**18 Oct** – 2014 Central Texas Nature Fest sponsored by the Central Texas Master Naturalists at Bend of the River Park, Temple ([Map](#)) from 09:00 to 14:00

<http://www.ci.temple.tx.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=948> , and <http://txmn.org/centraltexas/naturefest/> .

TLAS will have an informative station with field scopes and binoculars to show attendees some of the birds in that area, and how to see them.

**25 Oct** – Pepper Creek Trail, Temple ([Map](#)) , 08:00 to noon. This 1.2 mile concrete surface trail meanders through a wooded area along Pepper Creek and has water features that are sure to attract birds.

**16 Nov** – East Bell County, meet at 08:00 at Belton Park & Ride off I-35. We will look for specialty species of the agricultural areas in hopes of longspurs, Mountain Plovers, and water-related birds at Lake Rogers.

**13 Dec** – Chalk Ridge Falls Park, below Stillhouse Dam, at 08:00. Some of the unique target birds include Rock Wren and LeConte’s Sparrow, and many more species.

**20 Dec** – Christmas Bird Count!!!! Details to be discussed at 9 Dec TLAS monthly meeting

**17 Jan** – Baggett Country, meet at 08:00 at intersection of FM 116 and FM 1783, SW of Gatesville. Check out the webpage for this interesting nature photography ranch <http://baggettcountry.com/> . Although this is a private photo ranch, the owners have graciously invited TLAS to see and enjoy their ranch.

**28 Feb** – Bald Eagle nest between Lake Buchanan and Llano, and Inks Lake Fish Hatchery.

**21 Mar** – Potential field trip to Sam Houston National Forest to see Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and potentially 5 other woodpecker species, along with local specialties such as Brown-headed Nuthatch.

**25 Apr** – Messer Ranch, always a popular and productive field trip!

**16 May** – Sandy and Sue Lawry have again invited us to their ranch at Osage. This promises to be a most enjoyable field trip with many locally breeding species.

## Snack and Drink Sign-up

DATE	SNACK	SNACK	DRINKS & ICE	PAPER GOODS(CUPS, NAPKINS,PLATES)
14-Oct	Hankins	NEED	Elaine	Cathy&Gil
11-Nov	Deirdre	Margaret	Marilyn	Carol Ann
9-Dec	EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING			
13-Jan	Kathy C	Golda	Need	Cathy S
10-Feb	Liz	Sabrina	Dan	
March	NO MEETING DUE TO SPRING BREAK			
14-Apr	Gaylene	NEED	Marilyn	



If you see, hear, or are lucky enough to get a photograph of an interesting bird or avian behavior, please consider posting to the [TLAS page on Facebook](#) . Many of you are already on Facebook and it is a handy tool for disseminating sightings, photos, information.

As the Banner shows, American White Pelicans (yes, that's the full, correct name) are migrating through Central Texas at this time. There are still warblers, such as Nashville, Black-throated Green, and Wilson's passing through. The exciting news is that wintering species are arriving daily. The last cold front that wreaked so much havoc in parts of Central Texas brought



an influx of American Coot, Northern Shoveler, and some straggler shorebirds, like this American Avocet. Songbirds such as Blue-headed Vireo, Orange-crowned Warbler, and



Lincoln's Sparrow are showing up, and raptors, like American Kestrel are becoming more numerous each day and lucky birders will see Merlin. Osprey numbers have increased on both lakes, and Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks are passing high overhead.



## 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).



# Bend of the River Park



# Pepper Creek Trail

