



THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

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October 2016

Greetings everyone!

Next week on Saturday, Oct 8 is the first day that we (Twin Lakes Audubon Society) have volunteered to make a commitment to the Miller Springs Alliance. We are trying to assist them and be a significant role-player in the rehabilitation of Miller Springs Park. As Mary Ann Everett (chairman of the Miller Springs Alliance) advised us, they have contacted the local educational institutions who have responded by assuring her they will provide a very substantial number of students for this project on Oct. 8. Students are expected from Mary Hardin Baylor and the Killeen School District, and perhaps others.

We have obligated ourselves (TLAS) to provide personnel for two simultaneous bird walks at approximately noon, 1200 hrs on Sat. Oct 8. We truly don't know if we'll have 10 students per group (ideal) or 50. Therefore, we need to have at least 8 or 10 TLAS volunteers to staff these simultaneous walks and maintain an approximate ratio of one TLAS person per ten students. Most of us are intermediate level bird watchers/identifiers, and that should be perfect for this group of students. Please be at Miller Springs Headquarters on Morgan's Point Road (Hwy 2271) by 11:30.

Besides bringing yourselves, if you have an extra set of binoculars, please bring them. We may well have some students without.

This activity is before our next meeting, so would you please e-mail or phone me directly to commit to being there if you possibly can. This is our first activity with the Miller Springs Alliance, and we need to look good (lots of people) in addition to doing well with the students. Most should be 15-20 years of age.

My contact information ---
e-mail wlowryjr@hotmail.com
home phone 778-9161
cell phone 718-9381

Sandy Lowry, Pres



Photos of September Meeting – including our youngest birder!

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

11 Oct – John Macey, Fort Hood’s Lead Biologist for Golden-cheeked Warbler, will discuss the use of geolocators to track the movement, breeding and wintering locations of songbirds. The management of migratory species is unique, in the fact that partnerships must be forged with international organizations and countries. The current rate of habitat destruction is astonishing and it is imperative that natural resource managers determine where the most critical wintering habitat is for these species. A relatively new technology is available to help determine this – the geocator.

A geocator is a lightweight, electronic archival tracking device used for recording bird migration. This device, when attached to migratory birds can identify important migration staging areas and wintering grounds. The device has an internal clock and works by periodically recording ambient light levels to determine location. Upon retrieval of the unit, the data can be downloaded for geospatial determination.

Geolocators are the only device small enough to place on birds as small as the Golden-cheeked Warbler and has been successful on similar species such as the Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*; Peterson et al. 2015) and the Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citerea*; Wolfe and Johnson 2015). This information may help in determining migration patterns, critical wintering grounds, and migration plasticity of species with the effects of global warming.

18 Oct – Janet Wallace, President of the Central Texas Audubon Society (Waco), has invited TLAS members to attend their meeting on this date. The speaker will be Olivia Osborne, Urban Conservation Assistant from Audubon, talking on Hawks and migration. Information on the chapter, including their meeting place and time can be found on the CTAS website <http://www.centexaudubon.org/>

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

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.

19 Nov – Berry Springs Park, Georgetown. See park website for directions and layout. We'll meet at 8am. <http://parks.wilco.org/Home/Parks/BerrySpringsParkandPreserve/tabid/2466/>

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

31 Dec – The East Waco Christmas Bird Count – anyone interested in participating, please contact Annette Jones plawaco@aol.com

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

8 Oct	<p align="center">EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING This is not the usual way to provide refreshments, but the Sign-up sheet was not circulated. Please bring something</p>
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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).

