



# THE CHIRP

NEWSLETTER OF THE TWIN LAKES AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL 9 ISSUE 1

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

September 2014

## *Greetings everyone!*

Welcome to the 2014 – 15 year of TLAS. Your president, Bert Pope, and his wife are house-sitting and doing all sorts of maintenance work at a Christian retreat in Colorado. They will be back in October, and should be revitalized for the year!

We did have our Planning Committee meeting at Luby's as scheduled, and came away with a strong program of field trips for the year. Several distinguished speakers are also lined up. However, we will need a few more of you to commit to specific dates. We have several exceptionally strong wildlife biologists, professors of biological sciences, and accomplished birders among us, and we know these spots will fill.

We'll have a "Summer Highlights" short session at our September meeting, and give you a chance to brag on what you did and/or saw this summer. Mine was going out to Ft. Davis in June, and after searching for three days, finally seeing, in all their glory, both the male and female Montezuma Quail.

See you at the meeting. Chapter V.P. *Sandy Lowry*



These photos represent just some of the birds we could potentially see during our September Field Trip.

If any of you have photos, or bird stories, you'd like to share with others, please consider submitting to The Chirp, TLAS newsletter, for inclusion. This is not a plea for 'professional' images, but rather a call to share your photos and bird stories.

# 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

**09 Sep** - Jim Eidson, a retired prairie ecologist with TNC-Texas, will give a presentation on the natural history of north central Texas: a survey of vegetation, soils and systems. This will include the Blackland and Grand Prairies and the Western Cross Timbers.

**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** – TBD

**10 Mar** – NO Meeting

**07 Apr** - TBD

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



## FIELD TRIPS

**13 Sep** – Scott Summers, the new Outreach Coordinator for Fort Hood’s Natural Resources Branch, will be our field trip leader at 08:00 to the South shore of Lake Belton and nearby ponds on Ft Hood, concentrating on waders and shorebirds where Cowhouse Creek enters Lake Belton. Other target species will be migrant songbirds. Directions to Ft. Hood from I-35 (all distances are cumulative): 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 08:00.

**18 Oct** – 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. 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, 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**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>SNACK</b>	<b>SNACK</b>	<b>DRINKS &amp; ICE</b>	<b>PAPER GOODS(CUPS, NAPKINS,PLATES)</b>
<b>9-Sep</b>	<b>EVERYONE BRING SOMETHING</b>			



## 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).

