

## TOS Spring Meeting 2018–Alpine, TX

Alpine in May—It's Going to be Good!

Wow! It's already time to start thinking about our spring meeting. We're going to be headquartered in Alpine, but we'll be exploring far beyond that. We'll be there at a great time with many winter birds still around, migrants moving through, and breeding birds back and getting down to the business of raising another generation. And with trips to favorite locations such as Davis Mountains, Big Bend National Park, Christmas Mountain Oasis, Lake Balmorhea, and Independence Creek; trips to lesser known locations around Alpine, Marathon and Sanderson; and two Century Club trips to choose from on Friday and Saturday, this promises to be another great meeting. The counties that we'll be visiting are Brewster, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves and Terrell. A checklist showing the expected species for these counties in May is available at <https://tinyurl.com/TOSAAlpineChecklist>.

There is no hotel in Alpine that can accommodate all of our meeting activities, so our events will take place at the Alpine Civic Center. Field trips will depart from there. Our banquet will take place there. Presentations will happen there. And speaking of presentations, we have afternoon presentations scheduled in addition to the evening presentations. The afternoon presentations focus on research and are an opportunity for us to support students and researchers. Please try to work it into your schedule to attend! We have hotel rooms reserved at three different hotels, so you can find the one that works best for you.

Some field trips involve a lot of driving to get to the location, so expect really early departure times for those trips. Be prepared to carpool to minimize the number of vehicles and maximize the likelihood of spotting birds along the way. Walkie-talkies are always a good idea, especially for trips that involve movement between locations or long drive times. **And given that we will be in West Texas, extra water in the vehicles is a really good idea.** It can get hot even in May and if something unexpected happens, having water available can save the day.

Online registration will open in mid to late March. Watch for an email from us letting you know exactly when it will open. I highly recommend you register early since field trips are likely going to fill up. If you find that a field trip that you really want is full, go ahead and register for your second choice, but then email Judy Kestner and request to be put on the wait list for your first choice. Judy's email is [tosmember@yahoo.com](mailto:tosmember@yahoo.com). The registration fee will increase on April 19, and registration will close on April 26. Don't wait!

I hope to see you in Alpine!

—Shelia Hargis, TOS President

Alpine is a small town. No hotel had facilities to accommodate our activities, so all events will be held at the Alpine Civic Center at 100 North 13<sup>th</sup> St, Alpine, TX. No one hotel was able accommodate all of our expected meeting participants, so we have rooms reserved at three hotels.



TOS has arranged for a block of 27 rooms at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, located at 2004 Hwy 90 East, Alpine TX, 79830. The TOS group rate is \$119. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at 432-837-9597 and asking for the Texas Ornithological Society (TOS) group rate. These rooms will be held until April 3. Any cancellations must be made 72 hours prior to arrival in order to avoid a one-night room charge. Continental breakfast will be available starting at 4:30 a.m.



Additionally, TOS has arranged for a block of 25 rooms at the Quality Inn, 2401 Hwy 90 East, Alpine, TX, 79830. The TOS group rate is \$99. Reservations may be made by calling the hotel at 432-837-1530 and asking for the Texas Ornithological Society (TOS) group rate. These rooms will also be held until April 3. Any cancellations must be made 72 hours prior to arrival in order to avoid a one-night room charge. Continental breakfast will be available starting at 4:30 a.m.



Hampton Inn is 3 miles west of Holiday Inn.

TOS has arranged for a block of 23 rooms at the Hampton Inn, located at 2607 Hwy 90 West, Alpine, TX, 79830. The TOS group rate is \$119. These rooms may be booked by calling the hotel at 432-837-7344 and asking for the Texas Ornithological Society (TOS) group rate. These rooms will be held only until April 3. Any cancellations must be made 72 hours prior to arrival in order to avoid a one-night room charge. Continental breakfast will be available starting at 4:30 a.m.

Alpine Civic Center is less than 2 miles from all 3 hotels.

## Meeting Agenda

All meeting events will be held at the Alpine Civic Center, 100 North 13<sup>th</sup> St, Alpine, TX.

### Thursday, May 3

3:30-5:30 PM Board Meeting—Holiday Inn Express  
 4:00-7:00 PM Registration/T-Shirt sales begin  
 6:30-7:00 PM Welcome/ Introductions/Announcements  
 7:00-8:00 PM Speaker: Cecilia Riley—*Big Sky Country Birds*

### Friday, May 4

4:30-6:45 AM Continental Breakfast (at your hotel)  
 4:45-6:45 AM Box Lunch Pick-up and Field Trip Departures (from Civic Center)  
 5:00 AM-4:00 PM Field Trips  
 4:00-7:00 PM Registration  
 4:15-5:00 PM Speakers: Mieke Titulaer, PhD & Denis Perez—*Baird's and Grasshopper Sparrows of the Chihuahuan Desert*  
 6:15-7:00 PM Announcements/Field Trip Reports  
 7:00-8:00 PM Speaker: Kelly Bryan—*Banding Birds on Top of a Mountain*

### Saturday, May 5

4:30-6:45 AM Continental Breakfast  
 4:45-6:45 AM Box Lunch Pick-up and Field Trip Departures

5:00 AM-4:00 PM Field Trips  
 4:15-5:00 PM Speaker: Liz Oaster—*Montezuma Quail Research*  
 5:00-6:00 PM Social Time (cash bar will be available, beer only)  
 6:00-7:00 PM Dinner/Banquet  
 6:45-7:00 PM Annual Meeting  
 7:00-7:30 PM Announcements/Field Trip Reports  
 7:30-8:30 PM Keynote Speakers: John Karges & Rich Kostecke—*The Davis Mountains: A Bird's Eye View*

### Sunday, May 6

4:30-6:45 AM Continental Breakfast  
 4:45-6:45 AM Box Lunch Pick-up and Field Trip Departures  
 5:00 AM—Mid-afternoon Field Trips

## Speakers

### Thursday Night:



Cecilia Riley

### Cecilia Riley- *Big Sky Country Birds*

In 2015 Cecilia Riley retired from the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory where she served as the organizations Executive Director for almost 19 years. Her foremost accomplishments included the permanent protection of 17,000 acres of tropical forests in 10 countries and construction of the GCBO's permanent home: The Cecilia Riley Avian Conservation Science Center. Since her retirement, Cecilia, along with her photographer husband Mike Gray have continued to pursue land protection and bird conservation. Cecilia serves on the Board of Directors for the Malcolm C. Damuth Foundation; on the Stake Holder committee for Bird City Texas, a collaborative project of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Audubon Texas, and other natural resource agencies to develop a meaningful recognition program for Texas cites; and is co-coordinator for the annual Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration. Cecilia's educational background includes a B.S. in Ecology from the University of Texas at Arlington and an MS in Zoology from the University of Arkansas. Prior to founding the GCBO, she spent by 2 years at Texas Parks and Wildlife Department in Austin as the state-wide coordinator for Texas Partners in Flight, and prior to that spent 8 years at the University of Texas Marine Science Institute as a Research Associate where her work focused on the conservation of coral reef fishes.

## Speakers *(continued)*

### Friday Afternoon:



**Denis Perez (Left) and Mieke Titulaer, Ph.D. (Right)**  
*Baird's and Grasshopper Sparrows of the Chihuahuan Desert*

Denis Josefina Perez was born and raised in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico. She earned her bachelor's degree in Ecology from the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua and this is where she strengthened her passion for wildlife, especially birds. After graduating, she focused on field work relating to wildlife conservation and environmental education. She has worked as a wildlife technician on several projects related to birds within Mexico and the US including nest monitoring of Burrowing owls, monitoring Thick-billed parrot, survival of Baird's and Grasshopper sparrows, wintering and breeding grassland bird surveys, and surveys of migratory birds. She has also volunteered on different projects related to birds such as Northern Saw-whet owl, Golden eagle, Scaled quail, winter waterfowl counts, and passerine banding. She is currently a graduate assistant for Borderlands Research Institute at Sul Ross State University doing research on wintering survival and habitat use of Baird's and Grasshopper sparrows. She also enjoys being outdoors, climbing, camping, bird watching, and photography.

Mieke Titulaer, PhD, is a research scientist with the Borderlands Research Institute. She has a broad interest in behavioral ecology and bird conservation. Her main research focus is on conservation of grassland songbirds that overwinter in the Chihuahuan Desert. Her research interests include grassland bird-habitat relationships and the influence of habitat alterations and disturbances such as invasive exotic grasses, shrub encroachment and grazing management on grassland bird populations. In 2015 Mieke received her Ph.D. in Natural Resource Management from Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua in Mexico. For her dissertation, she studied the winter diet of grassland sparrows in the Chihuahuan Desert of northern Mexico. She investigated seed selection in the field, and looked at possible effects of invasive exotic grasses on wintering grassland sparrows in captive bird experiments. She received a MS in Animal Sciences from Wageningen University, the Netherlands, in 2010. For her Master thesis she performed research on personality and cognition in the great tit (*Parus major*) at the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW). After receiving her MS she performed research at

NIOO-KNAW on the effects of artificial light on reproduction and survival of songbirds. Mieke currently lives in Alpine, TX, with her husband and two sons.

### Friday Night:



*Kelly Bryan*

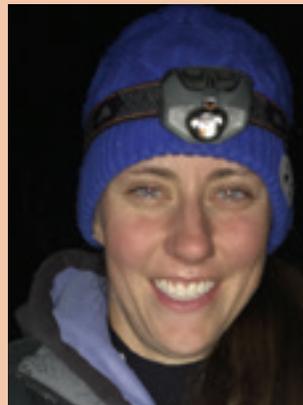
### **Kelly Bryan - Banding Birds on Top of a Mountain**

Kelly Bryan of Fort Davis, Texas was born in Teague, Freestone County, Texas and grew up in Mart, McLennan County, Texas. Kelly received an AA Degree from Temple Junior College, a BS Degree from Sam Houston State University (Biology/Chemistry), and an MS Degree from Sam Houston State University (Field Biology/Ornithology). Over his career

Kelly served as Park Ranger at Huntsville State Park, as Aquatic Biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife, as Park Superintendent for Kickapoo Cavern State Park, Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area, and Davis Mountains State Park, and as Natural Resource Specialist for State Parks Region 1, Fort Davis, Texas.

Mr. Bryan initiated the West Texas Hummingbird Project designed to determine the exact status and distribution of west Texas hummingbirds through capturing and banding individual birds on a systematic basis (almost 19,000 hummingbirds of 15 species have been banded to date). In 2016 he initiated a songbird study in the upper elevations of the Davis Mountains of west Texas systematically netting and banding birds in spring, summer, and fall. He is the author of numerous publications on the Ornithology of Texas.

### Saturday Afternoon:



*Liz Oaster*

### **Liz Oaster - Ecology of Montezuma Quail**

Liz Oaster was born and raised in Hanover, Pennsylvania. A majority of her youth was spent camping, riding horses, and exploring the forests of Pennsylvania. Her passion for wildlife came from her mother. Both would spend countless hours watching squirrels, deer, and birds at the feeders in their backyard.

After graduating high school in 2009, she left Pennsylvania to attend the University of Wyoming. As an undergraduate she worked on a variety of projects including coyote chemical sterilization, wind turbine effects on horned larks and

## Speakers *(continued)*

McCown's longspur, and social structure of golden-winged Manakin and club-winged Manakin. In 2013 she graduated with her B.S. in Zoology from the University of Wyoming. Before beginning her Master's she spent a summer working on a pronghorn diet study in Alpine, TX. In the fall of 2014 she began her Master's in Range and Wildlife Management with Sul Ross State University and Borderlands Research Institute. Her research is on the ecology of Montezuma quail in the Capitan Mountains of New Mexico.

### Saturday Night Keynote presentation:



**John Karges (Left) & Rich Kostecke (right)- *The Davis Mountains: A Bird's Eye View***

One of several mountain ranges rising out of the Chihuahuan Desert of west Texas, the Davis Mountains are the largest mountain range in the state and provide access to the largest extent of montane habitat in the state. The Nature Conservancy's staff biologists, Rich Kostecke and John Karges, will introduce the Davis Mountains in the Sky Island context so well known to birders and biologists to the west in southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. John will introduce the ecological and geographic setting of the mountains, and Rich will introduce the birds and birding in the mountains, from the rarities discovered over the past couple of decades to the diversity of hummingbirds to the changes in the bird fauna of the mountains; current research findings and the future.

John Karges is the Associate Director of Field Science with The Nature Conservancy, Texas. As the man in charge of statewide biological inventories, John heads programs that catalog Texas natural history, conduct site assessments and archive biological information in databases for use in conservation planning and land stewardship. John's professional specialties are vertebrate zoology, zoogeography and natural history, and in his role he works to tie those together with the large-scale conservation of special places in Texas. Prior to this role, he served in West Texas for nearly two decades as a land steward, conservation biologist, and regional program manager. A lifelong Texas resident, John grew up in Fort Worth, earned his BS from Texas A&I University in Kingsville and his master's of science in biology from the University of Texas at Arlington. He has worked with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and the Fort Worth Nature Center and Refuge, before joining The Nature Conservancy in California in 1990.

Rich Kostecke has a B.S. in Biology from the University of Kansas, M.S. in Zoology from North Dakota State University, and Ph.D. in Wildlife Science from Texas Tech University. His research focuses on avian ecology and habitat management. Rich's first job after completing his Ph.D. in 2002 was with The Nature Conservancy's (TNC's) Fort Hood Program in central Texas, a cooperative effort with the Army to monitor and manage Black-capped Vireos and Golden-cheeked Warblers. In 2011, Rich assumed his current state-wide role as Associate Director of Conservation for TNC in Texas. In this role, he serves as co-lead for science in the state, focusing on research and monitoring, spatial analysis, and conservation planning.

Rich is a Missouri native, but has called Texas home for the past 19 years, where he spends much of his free time traveling, exploring the outdoors, and studying and photographing birds and other critters.

## Registration Information

Registration is online at the Texas Ornithological Society's website, [texasbirds.org](http://texasbirds.org). Registration will open in mid-March. To get an email with the exact date, be sure your email address is included in your TOS account information! Once registration opens, there will be directions on the website to assist you. If you DO NOT have access to the Internet, you may call Judy Kestner at 361-387-7329 or Frances Cerbins at 512-372-9039 for assistance with registration. If you don't get an answer, leave a message and Judy or Frances will call you back when they are available. Registration closes on April 26.

Registration Fee:	\$60 TOS members \$85 Non-TOS members (includes a one-year membership) \$20 late fee after April 19
Box lunches	\$14
Saturday Banquet	\$35

### Boxed Lunch choices:

#### Friday

Whole Wheat Wrap, Roast Beef, Sharp Cheddar, leaf lettuce, red onion  
Or Whole Wheat Bread Sandwich, Turkey, Swiss, leaf lettuce, tomato, onion  
Or Lettuce Wrap, with Hummus and Cucumber  
Or Chicken Salad on croissant

#### Saturday

Spinach Wrap, Roast Beef, Sharp Cheddar, leaf lettuce, red onion  
Or Whole Wheat Bread Sandwich, Turkey, Swiss, leaf lettuce, tomato, onion  
Or Lettuce Wrap, Hummus and Cucumber  
Or Chicken Salad on croissant

#### Sunday

Wheat Bread, Ham, Swiss, leaf lettuce, red onion

## Registration Information *(continued)*

### Sunday *(continued)*

Or Wheat Bread, Turkey, Swiss, leaf lettuce, tomato, onion  
 Or Lettuce Wrap, Hummus and Cucumber  
 Or Chicken Salad on croissant

Additionally, each boxed lunch includes: Kosher dill pickle spear, mustard and mayo packets, bag of chips, home-baked chocolate chip cookies, apple, bottle of water, plastic fork & knife, napkin, salt & pepper

**Saturday Banquet: Traditional Texas BBQ Buffet-**Brisket and pulled pork, slow smoked over oak harvested from the Davis Mountains with house made rubs and seasonings. Ranch-style beans, traditional Cole slaw, Spring mix salad with grape tomatoes, grated carrots, homemade

balsamic vinaigrette and ranch dressings, BBQ sauce, spicy chili macho, sliced onion, pickles, white bread, peach & blackberry cobblers with Blue Bell homemade vanilla ice cream, un-sweet iced tea with sugar, sweeteners and sliced lemons available. **Vegetarian / Vegan:** Sweet potato & red bean chili. **Gluten free:** Everything on the BBQ menu is gluten free EXCEPT the cobbler and the bread. Can substitute two scoops of ice cream for dessert.

\*\*If you have dietary restrictions and have questions, email Shelia at Shelia.hargis@gmail.com. Shelia has all sorts of dietary restrictions, so she will be able to relate and get answers to your questions.

### Field Trips

Number	Field Trip & Description	County	Difficulty	Hours	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	<b>Marathon/Post Park/Prairie Dog Town/Water Treatment Ponds</b> —This trip will focus on three areas in Brewster County that often produce some wonderful birds. The first is the Gage Gardens in Marathon that provides a great stopover for migrants and breeding location for residents. The second location is Post Park/Post Park Road that traverses wonderful scrub and open habitat with a few livestock watering stations along the road that attract birds. Finally, the Marathon Prairie Dog Town which serves as a wonderful habitat for grassland and open habitat birds. Target Birds: Scaled Quail, Golden Eagle, Greater Roadrunner, Swainson’s Hawk, Burrowing Owl, Horned Lark, Clay-colored, Brewers, and Cassin’s Sparrows, Say’s Phoebe, Vermilion Flycatcher, Bronzed Cowbird, and migrants.	Brewster	Easy	6:30am-2:30	X	X	X
2	<b>Alpine: Around Town</b> —This trip will explore Kokernot Park, Alpine Cemetery, Windmill Pond, and the Rest Area west of Alpine on US 90. Kokernot Park on the north side of town has a host of large trees attractive to migrants. Zone-tailed Hawks, Western Wood-Pewees, Western Tanagers, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Gray and Dusky Flycatchers have all been found in the park at this time of year. Windmill Pond is one of the few locations that offers regular water feature near Alpine. Target birds include Cassin’s Kingbirds, Painted Bunting, a variety of empids, Bell’s Vireo, Summer and Western Tanagers, a variety of sparrows, migrants and lingering/nesting raptors.	Brewster	Easy	6:45am-2:30		X	X
3	<b>Davis Mountains State Park/McDonald Observatory/Lawrence E. Woods Picnic Area</b> —Three hotspots within a variety of elevations of the Davis Mountains should produce an excellent bird list. Davis Mountains State Park is well known to many birders because of the reliability of seeing some great birds. Montezuma Quail, Wild Turkey, Common Black Hawk, Blue-throated Hummingbird, White-throated Swift, Acorn Woodpecker and migrants will be sought after throughout the park. McDonald Observatory and the Lawrence E Woods Picnic Area are even higher in elevation and the alert birder might see Band-tailed Pigeon, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hepatic Tanager, and more.	Jeff Davis	Easy	6:15am-3:00	X	X	X
4	<b>Davis Mountains Preserve High Country</b> —The higher elevations of The Nature Conservancy’s Davis Mountains Preserve provides habitat for species that are difficult to find in the more accessible lower elevations of the Davis Mountains. This field trip will focus on the mesic pine forest habitat of Tobe Canyon at an elevation of roughly 7,500’. We will drive 5 miles up Madera Canyon (high clearance vehicles required, 4WD recommended if conditions have been rainy) to the gate at Tobe Gap Road. From there, it is a moderately strenuous 1.5 mile (3 mile round trip) hike up to Tobe Spring. While the distance might not sound imposing, we will gain approximately 1,500 feet in elevation during the hike and large portions of the hike are through open habitat with high sun exposure. Target birds: Short-tailed Hawk (rare), Zone-tailed Hawk, Band-tailed Pigeon, Mexican Whip-poor-will, White-throated Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, White-eared Hummingbird (rare), Peregrine Falcon, Dusky Flycatcher (rare), Cordilleran Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher (rare), Warbling Vireo, Stellar’s Jay, Mountain Chickadee, House Wren, Hermit Thrush, Virginia’s Warbler, Grace’s Warbler, Painted Redstart, Slate-throated Redstart (very rare); as well as the more widespread breeding species (e.g., Gray Flycatcher, Plumbeous Vireo, Hepatic Tanager, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak) and migrants (e.g., Townsend’s Warbler).	Jeff Davis	Strenuous	5:00am-3:00pm	X	X	X

**Field Trips** (continued)

Number	Field Trip & Description	County	Difficulty	Hours	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5	<b>Davis Mountains Preserve Mid-elevation</b> —This trip will focus on the pine and pinyon-juniper woodlands along Madera Creek on The Nature Conservancy’s Davis Mountains Preserve. We will drive up Madera Canyon Road (high clearance vehicles required, 4WD recommended if conditions have been rainy) to Wolf Den Canyon or Road Canyon, where we will bird some of the lower elevation pine stands on the preserve. We may also swing by 48 Tank to check for waterbirds. There will be short, relatively easy hikes along the road and trails, all of which are relatively flat. Target birds: ‘Mexican’ Mallard, Montezuma Quail, Common Black-hawk (rare), Zone-tailed Hawk, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Gray Flycatcher, Hutton’s Vireo, Plumbeous Vireo, Violet-green Swallow, Mountain Chickadee, Western Bluebird, Tropical Parula (rare), Grace’s Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeak; as well as numerous other breeding species and migrants (flycatchers, warblers, etc.)	Jeff Davis	Easy/Moderate	5:30am-2:30pm	X	X	
6	<b>Big Bend National Park West</b> —While this trip will have to leave early, the bird list and scenery will more than make up for any time spent traveling. Birding stops will include Sam Nail Ranch, Cottonwood Campground, and Santa Elena Canyon. Depending upon time, a few other locations will be considered. Target birds include Gray Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, Varied Bunting, Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, Lucy’s Warbler, Green-tailed Towhee, orioles, and migrant warblers, vireos, and empids.	Brewster	Easy	5:00am-4:00	X	X	X
7	<b>Big Bend National Park East</b> —Who knows what birds will be found at Dugout Wells, Rio Grande Village, and the Chisos Basin? Perhaps an Elf Owl or Western Screech Owl peaking out of a nest hole, an Olive-sided Flycatcher perched on top a high tree, a migrant empid working the tree line, Phainopepla searching for mistletoe berries, or the bright yellow of a Scott’s Oriole feeding from an Ocotillo. Perhaps a wonderful view of the nesting Common Black Hawks await.	Brewster	Easy	5:00am-4:00	X	X	X
8	<b>Big Bend National Park Upper Mountains</b> —Here it is, the big walk for the big bird. Romey will take participants up to Boot Canyon and Colima Trail to look for the Colima Warbler. This hike to Boot Spring is steep, rocky and 9 miles round-trip... on foot. You must carry your water, 2 quarts minimum recommended per person. Of course, you might get distracted by Painted Redstarts, Rivoli’s, Lucifer, Broad-tailed, and Blue-throated Hummingbirds, Band-tailed Pigeons, Cordilleran Flycatcher, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, and Hepatic Tanager to name a few.	Brewster	Strenuous	5:00am-5:00pm	X	X	
9	<b>Miller Ranch</b> —Drive to the historic C.E. Miller Ranch (52 mi). We are on paved roads from the Chamber to Valentine, TX, then unpaved roads to the ranch Hdqs. (If raining, road is muddy and may be slippery; high clearance is not required). After a short restroom break and birding at the Ranch Hdqs, we transfer to high clearance ranch vehicles for a drive up into canyon for a moderate hike and birding. You will arrive early morning to see Gambel’s and Scaled Quail feeding at the Hdqs. Then the adventure really begins as we traverse the rugged canyon terrain of the Sierra Vieja Mountains in search of Phainopepla, Peregrine Falcon, Rock Wren, Verdin and many more species. A short history and tour of Camp Holland built by the U.S. Army in 1918 in response to Mexican bandit raids is part of the tour. Bring hat, water, snacks.	Jeff Davis/Presidio	Moderate	6:15am-3:00pm	X	X	
10	<b>Lake Balmorhea</b> —One of the few trips with major water and a wonderful spot for those who have never birded it or have birded it many times. Lake Balmorhea should provide a variety of waterfowl, raptors, both Western and Clark’s Grebes, Virginia Rail, Snowy Plover, shorebirds, and who knows what gull(s) may stray to the lake.	Reeves/Jeff Davis	Easy	6:15am-3:00pm	X	X	X
11	<b>Christmas Mountain Oasis</b> —This trip will head to Carolyn Ohl’s place called the Christmas Mountain Oasis in Terlingua Ranch. This location is a guaranteed spot for Lucifer’s Hummingbirds! Birders should also see Varied Bunting, maybe Elf Owl or a Sora, Plumbeous Vireo, White-throated Swift, Broad-tailed Hummingbird, empids, Black Phoebe, Scott’s Orioles, Willow Flycatchers, Black-tailed Gnatcatchers, and migrants.	Brewster	Moderate	5:45am-2:30pm	X	X	
12	<b>Bird Photography Trip</b> —*Limited to four (4) bird photographers per day. This trip will head to private property with a water drip and photography setup. There is an excellent chance of seeing and photographing Montezuma Quail. The site draws a wide variety of Davis Mountain bird species.	Jeff Davis	Easy	6:00am-2:00pm	X	X	X

**Field Trips** (continued)

Number	Field Trip & Description	County	Difficulty	Hours	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
13	<b>Century Club Trip: Jeff Davis County</b> —After after an early start we will arrive at the Lawrence E Wood picnic area about an hour before sunrise. We'll target Western Screech-Owl, Mexican Whip-poor-will and Common Poorwill before sunrise. After sunrise we'll target Gray Flycatcher, Grace's Warbler, and Hepatic Tanager. We'll make a short hike on part of the Madera Canyon Trail. We'll make a couple of short stops before birding Davis Mountains SP including a private residence in Limpa Crossing for hummingbirds. Cross your fingers for a Montezuma's Quail. Next stop is the Wild Rose Pass Picnic Area where we will target MacGillivray's Warbler and Scaled Quail. We'll take a quick break for lunch supplies and restrooms at the Stone Village Market in Fort Davis then head to Point of Rocks picnic area for lunch and Rock Wren. After lunch we'll cruise CR505 looking for grassland birds. On our way back to Alpine stop at the Musquiz Creek Picnic Area and see what final birds we can add to our count from the Cottonwoods along the creek. Easy except for a moderate hike of about a mile at Madera Canyon. The afternoon will have limited restroom opportunities. Entry fee required at the state park.	Jeff Davis	Moderate	5:30am-4:00pm	X		
14	<b>Century Club Trip: Reeves County</b> —We'll start at sunrise at Lake Balmorhea. Clark's and Western Grebe will steal the show. Lingering waterfowl, migrant gulls, and shorebirds will be the main targets. After the lake we'll look for migrants in the trees at Balmorhea SP. We'll break for lunch before we leave the park. After the park we'll check out the pocket Sandia Wetlands for shorebirds, sparrows, and waterfowl. At this point those who don't want to make the 80 mile drive to Red-bluff Reservoir can return to Alpine. We'll hope to arrive at Red Bluff Reservoir about 2:30 pm and we'll bird until about 3:30 pm. We should arrive back in Alpine about 6 pm. Fee required at Lake Balmorhea and Balmorhea SP. 310 miles	Reeves	Moderate	6:00am-6:00pm		X	
15	<b>Century Club Trip: Pecos County</b> —The tour will feature as wide a variety of habitats as available with an emphasis on maximizing the day's species list.	Brewster	Moderate	5:30am-4:00pm	X		
16	<b>Century Club Trip: Presidio County</b> —The tour will feature as wide a variety of habitats as available with an emphasis on maximizing the day's species list.	Presidio County	Moderate	6:00am-4:00pm		X	
17	<b>Independence Creek Preserve/Sanderson</b> —This field trip will spend most of a morning at the birdiest location in Terrell County - Texas Nature Conservancy's Independence Creek Preserve. Target birds include Zone-tailed and Gray Hawks, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Tropical Parula, 4 species of breeding orioles, and many spring migrants including waterfowl, shorebirds, flycatchers, warblers, and potentially 5 species of Passerina buntings. If time permits, we will briefly check 1 or 2 other Terrell County birding locations in or near Sanderson on our return to Alpine. Each participant should bring lunch and water, and a signed liability waiver (available at the meeting) is required for entry.	Terrell	Moderate	5:15am-4pm	X	X	
18	<b>Sanderson &amp; Papster's Place</b> —Sanderson is a little birded location that has been producing some interesting birds such as Violet-crowned Hummingbird, Band-tailed Pigeons, Phainopepla, and other interesting birds. We will check out Papster's Place, Lee's residence which should have a Lucifer's Hummingbird at this time, Zone-tailed Hawk, Vermilion Flycatcher, and Purple Martins. We will check out some lots around town with native brush, the Cactus Trail, and Sanderson Cemeteries.	Terrell	Easy	5:30am-noon			X