

## Texas Ornithological Society Meeting in Nacogdoches a Big Hit!

The Texas Ornithological Society's winter meeting was held in Nacogdoches the weekend of Jan. 13/14, and by all accounts, it was very successful and fun! Pineywoods Audubon was our host, and they did a fantastic job of putting together great field trips, rounding up interesting presenters, amassing an amazing number of silent auction items, and making us all feel welcome. Pineywoods Audubon is a small group and nearly everyone in their organization contributed in some way to the meeting.

Some of the highlights include:

*The birds!* Just to name a few – Golden Eagle, Red-cockaded Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Sprague's Pipit, Henslow's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, and Red Crossbills. And Bald Eagles everywhere with numerous individuals on nests! We were too early for displaying Woodcocks, but several groups found the birds anyway. Quite a few attendees added new birds to their life lists.

*A great participant turnout!* We had over 150 people attending and bringing their enthusiasm for birds and their ecotourism money to Nacogdoches.

*Media coverage!* Susie Lower, TOS and Pineywoods Audubon member, arranged for an article in the local paper, [http://dailysentinel.com/social\\_media/article\\_c3751f17-1d6b-5340-8f8c-1cdbd058831b.html](http://dailysentinel.com/social_media/article_c3751f17-1d6b-5340-8f8c-1cdbd058831b.html). And we even had a KTRE reporter join us in the field, <http://www.ktre.com/story/37256974/birdwatchers-flock-to-nacogdoches-for-winter-convention>. Conveniently she showed up while we were riding high from great looks at a Henslow's Sparrow!

*The TOS Board voted to fund research projects across Texas and restoration projects in Port Aransas and Rockport!* We will be funding nest boxes for Rebekah Rylander's Urbanization Effects on Cavity Nesters research project. We will also be funding the purchase of ten geolocators for Jim Ray's Purple Martin migration research project. And we will be assisting with restoration efforts at Paradise Pond in Port Aransas and at the Bird Demo Garden (also called Tule Marsh East) in Rockport.

I'll close with a special thanks to Dave Wallace, Vickie Wallace, Cliff Shackelford, and Susie Lower of Pineywoods Audubon. They worked closely with us for months getting everything in order and rounding up all the other volunteers to lead field trips, give presentations, staff tables, hand out lunches, decorate tables, solicit silent auction items, etc. It was a pleasure working with them. On behalf of the TOS Board and all the TOS members who attended, thank you Dave, Vickie, Cliff, Susie and all Pineywoods Audubon volunteers for a fantastic meeting!

Shelia Hargis  
President, Texas Ornithological Society

PS I hope to see many of you in Alpine in May for our spring meeting. Mark your calendars for May 3 – 6, 2018, and watch [www.texasbirds.org](http://www.texasbirds.org) for updates.