

President's Message



Christine Turnbull TOS President.

Happy Spring!
We hope you can get out and do some birding and experience some of the spectacular bird migrations that are taking place this spring. It is amazing to consider that migrating birds can cover thousands of miles in their annual travels. Did you know that by early March, Neotropical migrants begin reaching the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula and Mexican coast on their way north? When

conditions are favorable these migrants leave the Mexican coast in the evening and head out over the Gulf. The trip across the Gulf is 600 miles, and it's estimated that in good weather it takes songbirds 18 hours to make the non-stop flight. (Can you imagine a .11 ounce (about a penny) Ruby-throated Hummingbird or .4 oz Hooded Warbler doing this?!) If the weather is favorable, they can arrive on our coast about midday. If conditions are extremely favorable, they may continue flying inland until nightfall. The physical stress of the trip is incredible! And of course, at times storms or cold fronts can bring strong headwinds during the spring, causing birds to use up their energy reserves flying over the Gulf. When this happens, migrants can be near exhaustion when they reach our coast. In such cases they head for the nearest location offering food and cover. Tens of thousands of birds can arrive exhausted on our coasts, seeking shelter, food and water. While these "fallouts" can be spectacular to experience, it's important to remember that it is an extremely stressful time for birds. Give birds their space and let them refuel for their journey.

The importance of preserving suitable habitat on the coast is crucial for these birds. On the upper and mid coast TOS' *Sabine Woods Sanctuary* provides quality habitat, water and food for exhausted migrants. Our partner, the *Golden Triangle Audubon Society* takes care of the property and maintains the mowed trails, the water features, the port-a-johns, and handles entrance fees and is often near the entrance to answer any questions visitors may have. The dedicated volunteers ensure the property is not only bird friendly, but visitor friendly as well. Members have also supported another migrant stopover, *Hook Woods Sanctuary*, whose dedicated volunteers have made numerous improvements for both birds and visitors as well. (see article p.) Both of these sites are critical stopovers for migrant birds. Your entrance fees support the maintenance of water features and habitat for these migrant birds. Another partner, *Houston Audubon* maintains key habitats on the upper coast as well. One of our less visited coastal properties is our *Magic Ridge Sanctuary*

in Indianola. As of this writing, we are closing a deal that adds some critical core habitat to the sanctuary, connecting several lots to make the Tamilaupas Thorn Scrub habitat more contiguous. Volunteers have planted numerous native plants to reestablish native habitat and a shorebird biologist from *Manomet's International Shorebird Survey Team* will be conducting Shorebird Surveys this spring on the extensive mudflats in the area. We appreciate your support of these important properties and their important role as havens for birds during migration.

We hope you can bird with us at these sanctuaries this spring and/or join us at our Spring Meeting with our partner, the *Gulf Coast Bird Observatory* in Lake Jackson, April 28-May 1. (See info on pages 7-16) As for other happenings? Again this spring we will be sponsoring youth birding teams for *TPWD Great Texas Birding Classic* and supporting the *Rio Diablo Youth Birding Camp* by continuing to promote *Texas A&M GrillLife Extension*.

Thank you for your continued support. Good birding.

—Christine Turnbull



"IS THIS THE PARTY TO WHOM I AM SPEAKING?"

In an effort to update our records, I'm making a request of all TOS members to log on to your account to verify that your contact information is up-to-date, and edit it if necessary.

Often I need to ask a question, confirm event registration details, or advise of payment problems and find that we don't have a telephone number on file for the person I need to contact. Almost everyone has an email address, but many don't check it with the obsessive frequency that I do, so the more ways we can get in touch, the more quickly issues can be resolved.

To log in, go to our website, www.texasbirds.org, and select Member Information. Then click Access Account and enter your credentials. Choose Update my Profile from the drop-down menu and complete any changes or additions.

If your region is not listed, either leave it blank or find your county on our website www.texasbirds.org under Board Members > Show Texas Regions and enter the corresponding region number.

Thanks for your help, TOS-ers!

—Judy Kestner, Membership Secretary

Happenings at Hooks Woods

By the time you read this, things should be heating up at Hooks Woods, i.e., the birds and the birders should be arriving. We have been busy getting ready for both! The “new” pond in the meadow will be two years old this spring, and the “new” bleachers will be a little over one year old. Now, add the Steve Gross Memorial Bird Blind, including another small pond, and I think you will like what you find. Possibly the only thing that will make it any better will be for the birds to be there in large numbers at the time of your visit.

Dave Dolan has been the driving force behind the memorial bird blind. He wrote this in memory of his friend.

“Past President of TOS, Renaissance man who was exceptional at just about everything he took an interest in, including: Birding, Mentorship, Photography, Music, Wine Connoisseur, Fly Fishing, Jeopardy, and especially teaching both in school and in life. His passion for helping new birders and young birders helped so many to get hooked on birding. He was a teacher of troubled teens by profession, and he had a similar effect on his students. He will be missed and our world would have been a better place if he hadn’t been taken so early in his life.”

Here are some photos of the blind, with still a little more work to do, but looking really good already!

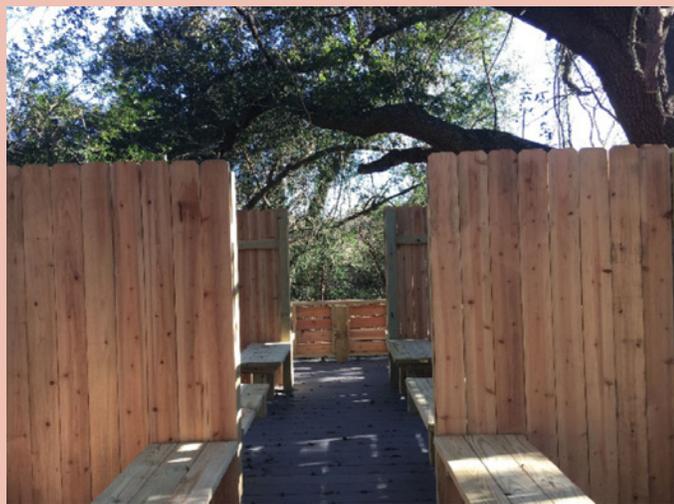
And at the end, the new pond:



Once you get “inside”, there are small sections where several people can sit and watch the birds come to the water features on each side of the blind. There will be slats that can be opened to allow you to see out but block most of the movement inside the blind from the birds’ view.
Photo credit: Shelia Hargis



This is looking out at the “end” of the blind as it looked on March 12, 2022. There will be slats to block the movement, and this view will look out at the new pond.
Photo credit: Shelia Hargis



The entrance, at the end of the last boardwalk.
Photo credit: Shelia Hargis



It all begins with digging. James Giroux and Kendra Kocab are pros at this now.
Photo credit: Shelia Hargis



After the hard work is done, then comes the liner. Shelia Hargis pitches in to help with this part, with Kendra overseeing her work.
Photo credit: James Giroux



After another load of rocks and just the right arrangement, the pond is finished and ready for the birds and birders on March 19, 2022!
Photo credit: James Giroux

If you would like to donate to the memorial in honor of Steve, it is not too late. If you didn't know Steve but would like to donate to the latest cool project at Hooks, it is not too late. You can donate online using the Donate button on our website, texasbirds.org, or mail us a check. Our address is 11101-9 Leopard Square, PMB 1039, Corpus Christi, TX 78410. Please let us know that your donation is for Steve's memorial. Thank you!

The pond is covered by the \$5000 Great Texas Birding Classic grant that we were awarded recently. It covered the purchase and installation of the bleachers and various other projects including the pond. Thank you to Texas Parks and Wildlife, the GTBC, and the winning team of Swarovski

UTC RoadHawks, sponsored by Swarovski Optik North America, for the grant that has allowed us to improve Hooks Woods in so many ways!

As we improve Hooks Woods, we need to keep a closer eye on things. The Hooks Woods Management Team is looking for someone who would be willing to visit Hooks every couple of weeks to make sure everything is in order. If you are interested in volunteering in this way or finding out more about this, please contact Shelia, Shelia.hargis@gmail.com. Thank you!

Hope to see you at Hooks Woods this spring!

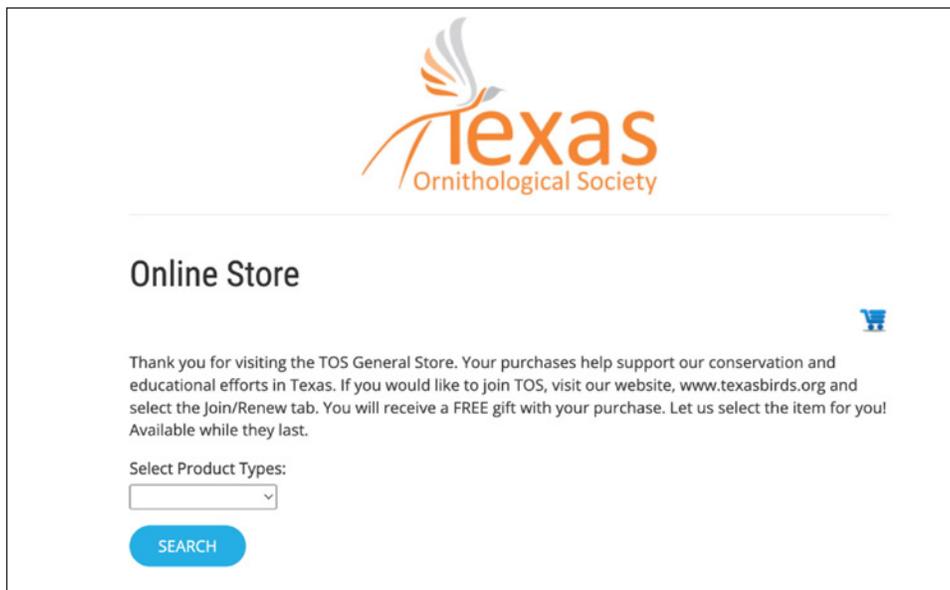
—Shelia Hargis

The virtual world of the past couple of years has altered our lives in many ways. Our inability to hold in person meetings made our TOS merchandise basically inaccessible. You had no way of procuring caps, t-shirts, etc. TOS now has an online store (*To access go to www.texasbirds.org and choose the "more" icon then select TOS Store.*) for your perusal, which opened in February. It has proven to be a resounding success. Almost immediately upon startup, we sold out of Elf Owl t-shirts in sizes small and XXL. We still

are well stocked on caps (blue and green), t-shirts (sizes M, L, & XL), *TOS Handbook* (2nd edition), and hardcopies of the *occasional publication* from 2021 on hummingbirds. Please check out our website for ordering information. Thank you for the many ways you support TOS!

URL <https://texasbirds.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/texasbirds/giftstore.jsp>

—Submitted by Daniel Hodges



Regional Reports

Region 1—Panhandle

—John Berner

Region 2—North Central Texas

—Galon Brehm

Region 3—East Texas Timberlands (Pineywoods)

Traveling, both local and out of the country these days. Where do I begin.

Currently, with two TOS/bird app presentations done and four before year end, I've been a pretty busy. Most people don't know about TOS, or some are under the impression it's an invite only society!

WHAT??

Currently, I'm visited Audubon groups, Master Naturalists and Outdoor Adventure groups. Just anyone with a desire to get into the outdoors. Outdoors is like layers. Why not add birding to the hike, paddle or camping?

It's been so much fun!

Challenge on, for other Regional Directors to dispel the myth about TOS!

—Laura Wilson

Region 4—Trans-Pecos

General Comments for Trans Pecos Region:

Extremely and dangerously dry

Bird sightings cover December 2021 – February 2022

Eurasian Wigeon, Balmorhea Lake continuing bird seen into January 2022; **Long-tailed Duck**, Red Bluff Reservoir 1/14/2022; Least Grebe, Candelaria Wetlands 1/30/2022 and Big Bend NP 2/1/2022; Broad-billed Hummingbird, Franklin Mountains 1/28/2022; Western Sandpiper, BJ Bishop Wetlands 12/30/2021; Pacific Loon, Ascarate Park 1/2/2022; White Ibis, Rio Bosque Park, 12/27/2021; Downy Woodpecker, TX 118 Rest Area 12/12/2021; Winter Wren, Balmorhea Lake 12/19/2021 and Davis Mountain Preserve 2/8/2022; Sedge Wren, Balmorhea Lake 12/19/2021; **Clay-colored Thrush**, Davis Mountain Resort 12/05/2021; Fox Sparrow, Davis Mountain Preserve 12/28/2021; Nelson's Sparrow, Balmorhea Lake 12/19/2021; Rusty Blackbird, Rio Bosque Park 1/16/2022; Northern Parula, Big Bend NP 12/30/2021; Prairie Warbler, Big Bend NP 2/6/2022; Townsend's Warbler, Memorial Park/El Paso 1/15/2022; Indigo Bunting, Big Bend NP 12/25/2021; Varied Bunting, TX 118 Rest Area 12/27/2021

—DD Currie

Region 5—Edwards Plateau Report

As you are travelling on I-10 west of San Antonio, you will pass through Crocket County – one of the many counties in Region 5. It is fairly easy to work on your Crocket county list while en route to other destinations. Crocket County has 260 species documented over the years and contains 16 eBird Hotspots.

The Fort Lancaster Overlook/Sheffield Rest Area has 140 species documented. Nestled in steep hillsides It's a scenic spot that is a good place to get out and stretch your legs and look for birds. It is most notable for canyon species and depending on the time of year birds such as Gray Vireo, Sage Thrasher, Western Bluebirds, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Bushtits and Varied Buntings have been observed.

Another Break from the Highway is River Road in Crocket County. This hotspot is a rural road with few cars and 126 species have been documented here. It passes through varied terrain including hills, pasture and bottomland along the Pecos River. Depending on the time of year, various sparrows, Bobwhite, Scaled Quail, Wild Turkey, Yellow-throated Vireos, Northern Parulas, Bushtits, Rock and Cactus Wren, Says Phoebe and even Phainopepla and Mt. Bluebirds have been observed along this route.

Another even more untraveled road is Live Oak Draw/CR 304, where you wander through cliff like areas with the river down below. 123 species have been recorded here. Great Horned Owls, Zone-tailed Hawks, Chihuahan Ravens, Buntings, Bells Vireos, Cassins, Brewers and Black-throated Sparrows and many other species have been documented here. You can either drive these back roads or stop and stretch your legs and walk along the road.

—Christine Turnbull

Region 6—Central Prairie

A Whooping Crane family (adult pair and a juvie) was discovered in southeast Bell County on 28 Dec 2021, remaining in the same general area (including adjacent Williamson County) through 2 Jan. These cranes were seen and photographed by many local birders during their stay. Best photos and assistance from USFWS biologist Wade Harrell revealed that the adult male was 11 years old and had been banded at Aransas NWR in Jan 2013. The adult female was similarly marked at Aransas in Jan 2014. Mr. Harrell explained that this crane family was definitely from the natural migratory population that breeds in Canada and winters at Aransas NWR. This population now numbers just over 500 cranes and the past year's breeding season was very successful—indeed, 51 chicks successfully fledged. The nonmigratory population in LA and southeast TX has never been documented west of a line going north-south from Houston. Our crane family was simply staging here for a few days before they moved on to Aransas, most likely due to unusually mild weather during the fall and early winter. One transmitter-bearing crane was still in Kansas on 28 Dec, and moved south to Oklahoma a day or two later. So, it's not really unexpected for a few cranes to linger along their route into winter during mild weather years.

Regional Reports (continued)



*Bell County Whooping Crane family, New Year's Day 2022.
Photo by Randy Pinkston.*

Three adult male Rufous Hummingbirds spent the winter season at a private Salado residence. Multiple Dunlin overwintered at Stillhouse Hollow Lake, as did a juvie maturing to adult dark morph Reddish Egret. A fortunate few observed a distant and very challenging Red-throated Loon on Stillhouse Hollow Lake from 5-10 Mar. White-tailed Kite and Couch's Kingbird were holiday season highlights in Belton. A Cape May Warbler was quite a surprise in Temple on 18 Dec. Longspurs occupied vast ag fields near Holland-Bartlett-Rogers this winter, including good numbers of Laplands for the first time in years.

Williamson County highlights included a Fork-tailed Flycatcher and continuing Northern Shrike at Granger Lake, a less long-staying adult California Gull at Granger Lake, continuing Phainopepla near Florence throughout the season, and a young male maturing to gorgeous adult male Allen's Hummingbird at a private residence in Georgetown. Consistent with recent trends Mountain Plovers proved challenging in the Granger area this winter. Nevertheless, a few were observed in traditional locations. There were scattered reports of long-staying Surf Scoters in both Williamson & Travis Counties.



*Williamson County Phainopepla, 26 Dec 2021.
Photo by Randy Pinkston.*

— Daniel Hodges

Region 7—Rio Grande Brushlands

Coastal Bend birding has seen a lot of activity by both birds and birders due to the discovery of two female Harlequin Ducks along the Port Aransas jetty. I swore I'd never walk to the end of the jetty again, but I did, twice, before being able



to get great looks at the ducks. There are excellent bonus birds at the jetty and close by including Little Gulls, Iceland (Thayer's) and Glaucous Gulls, Common Tern, and many Bonaparte's Gulls. Great fun running into birder friends from around the state.

Regional Reports (continued)

The tenth annual Laredo Birding Festival was very successful despite the frigid temperatures. Five new ranches were added to the Festival. Several Zone-tailed and Gray Hawks, Morelet's Seedeaters, and Red-billed Pigeons were seen on various trips.

The continuing rarities of the Rio Grande Valley include the Bat Falcon at Santa Ana, Golden-crowned Warbler at the Valley Nature Center, and the Social Flycatcher at UT Edinburg. I love it when rare birds are happy to stick around.

If you haven't heard about the What's App groups, they give you information on finding these rarities and others in real time. There is a group that's been set up for the LRGV Rare Bird Alert, the Bat Falcon Chase, HARD (Harlequin Duck) Chase, and for Coastal Bend RBA. I'm sure there are others as well. Thanks so much to those who have set up these groups and to those who have posted to them.

—Susan Foster

Region 8—Central Prairie

Gulls and flycatchers dominated this winter's rarities in our region. Little Gull (Calhou Co.), California Gull (Jefferson Co.), Iceland Gull (Harris and Galveston Co.) and Black-legged Kittiwake (Matagorda Co.) were all one-day wonders. Glaucous Gull was reported in Harris, Brazoria, and Galveston Counties a few times between January and March. In addition to the continuing Greater Pewee at Bear Creek Park in Harris County, three other rare flycatchers have been found, and all were chaseable! A Hammond's Flycatcher was seen at Brazos River County Park in Brazoria County from late December through early February. A very



Pacific-slope Flycatcher at Cullinan Park. Photo by Debbie McMullen.



Dusky-capped Flycatcher at Smith Oaks. Photo by Frank Farese.

popular Dusky-capped Flycatcher was first reported at Smith Oaks in Galveston County on January 17 and has continued at least through mid-March. Most recently, a Pacific-slope Flycatcher was found at Cullinan Park in Fort Bend County on March 12 and has stayed for at least a week.

Harris County has been great for chaseable rarities this winter. Birders have been treated to a Western Grebe near Baytown, a Red-naped Sapsucker at Glenwood Cemetery, a Greater Pewee at Bear Creek Park, Western Tanagers at George Bush Park and Archbishop Fiorenza Park, a Henslow's Sparrow at George Bush Park, a Tropical Parula at Hermann Park, and a Black-headed Grosbeak at Armand Bayou Nature Center. All of these birds hung around for days, weeks, or even months!

Other notable species in our region this winter include Sooty Shearwater (Matagorda Co.), Prairie Falcon (Matagorda Co.), Bell's Vireo (Brazoria Co.), Green-tailed Towhee (Calhoun Co.), Black-throated Gray warbler (Harris Co.), and Orchard Oriole (Victoria Co.). While we await spring's colorful migration, let us not forget that winter contains more than just "little brown jobs". In January and February alone, our region tallied 20 warbler species!

—Kendra Kocab, Director

Welcome to the TOS 2022 Spring Meeting in Lake Jackson

TOS is excited to announce our Spring Meeting, taking place Thursday April 28 through Sunday May 1, 2022.

In-person meetings are back! We are delighted to collaborate with Gulf Coast Bird Observatory to present an array of field trips, afternoon and evening speakers and our traditional banquet.

At this meeting we will be honoring the late Dennis Shepler with a talk by his great friend Fred Collins. Dennis was a terrific birder, artist, and friend to all who were lucky enough to cross paths with him. He left TOS and GCBO a number of books and original paintings which will be auctioned off at the meeting and, following Dennis' wishes, the proceeds will benefit both organizations.

You can't ask for a better location for a spring meeting than the Upper Texas Coast! Birds we will search for include migrating warblers, vireos, tanagers, buntings, orioles, and more. Field trips will offer excellent birding on private properties not usually open to the public, coastal wetlands and migrant traps, with the opportunity to work on your county and Century Club lists.

In addition to Fred's tribute to Dennis on Thursday evening, our afternoon and evening speakers will present four exciting and interesting topics including nocturnal bird calls, the SPLASH project to reduce coastal trash, the fascinating world of American Oystercatchers, and tales from a record-breaking Big Year. A speaker package will be available for those who cannot attend in person, and Zoom links will be provided for those who opt not to attend the talks in person.

Check-in, speakers, and the banquet will all be held at **St. Timothy's Episcopal Church** (200 Oyster Creek Dr, Lake Jackson, TX 77566). While there is not a host hotel per se, there is a hotel near the field trip staging area that has offered a special price (see Hotel section below).

We eagerly look forward to seeing you during the meeting, whether in person or via digital and social media platforms.

—Christine Turnbull, TOS President



Gulf Coast Bird Observatory is an independent non-profit organization headquartered on the upper Texas coast. They have become recognized as an innovative conservation organization, designing and conducting a significant number of large avian conservation projects including migration studies, habitat enhancement, land acquisition, regional habitat mapping, and others. They accumulate, assess, and distribute high quality bird population and conservation information that will provide a scientific basis for the protection of birds and their habitats around the Gulf of Mexico and far beyond. They fulfill their mission of protecting the birds and their habitats by using sound scientific research, land protection and enhancement, community engagement and educational outreach. For the Birds!

During these transitioning times, it is important that every participant accept responsibility to keep themselves and others healthy during our meeting. Below are our suggestions to help keep you and everyone safe:

- Field trips are outdoors. Social distancing and masks are strongly encouraged as well as carpooling only with those whom you consider your «safe» flock.
- There are no centralized hotel or TOS sponsored breakfasts, but people are encouraged to social distance and wear masks as much as possible in all situations.
- For indoor gatherings like the banquet and auction people are encouraged to wear masks, sit with their flock or group they know and/or social distance where possible.

The pandemic is ever changing, and we have all learned to expect the unexpected. TOS will be monitoring the COVID situation as the meeting approaches.

Recorded speaker presentations will be available whether you attend in person or not.

Online registration will open on March 21 to March 28 and close on April 21, 2022.

The fee for the in-person event will be \$90 per TOS member, and \$125 for non-members, which covers their annual membership dues. There will be no fee for student attendees. For the speaker package only, the cost is \$25, or \$60 for non-members, which includes a one-year membership.

Banquet cost is \$35, box lunches will be \$15 each.

Hotels and Staging Area

Though not our host hotel per se, the **Best Western Plus Lake Jackson** has extended discounted rates to TOS. It is located at 702 Highway 332 E, Lake Jackson, TX 77566, Ph: (979) 529-2020, email: management@bwplakejackson.com

They have offered king or double rooms for \$96.25 per night. Space is limited (33 double and 11 king rooms are being held), so make your reservation today! Below is the link to register.

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.44704.html?groupId=1I7TF0C9

The last day to reserve a room at this rate is April 14, 2022. **No cancellations can be made after April 14, 2022.**

Other hotels in the area include Courtyard by Marriott, Staybridge Suites, and Comfort Suites. There are also several RV and camping parks close by.

We will stage our carpools in a parking lot very close to the Best Western. The address is 604 Texas Hwy. 332, Lake Jackson, TX 77566, and we are grateful to the Olin Corporation for allowing us to use their property!

Meals

Breakfast at the Best Western Plus hotel is 5:30-9:30 AM on weekdays and 6:00-9:30 AM on weekends. However, participants with early field trip departures may request a grab-and-go breakfast (let the hotel know in advance).

Box lunches will be available to order when you register for your field trips.

Meeting Agenda

Thursday, April 28, 2022

- 3:30-5:30 PM Board Meeting
4:00-6:00 PM Registration Check-in/TOS merchandise sales/Silent Auction
6:00-7:00 PM Welcome/Introductions/Announcements/Annual Meeting/Century Club Pins via Zoom (Lots of useful information is given during this time, so please attend.)
7:00-8:00 PM Speaker: Fred Collins—*Dennis Shepler*

Friday, April 29

- All Day Birding
4:45-7:30 AM Box Lunch Pick-up and Field Trip Departures
4:00-5:00 PM Speaker: Celeste Silling—*SPLASH—Stopping Plastics and Litter along Shorelines*
5:00-6:00 PM Registration Check-in/Silent Auction
6:30-7:00 PM Announcements/Birding Reports
7:00-8:00 PM Speakers: Cin-Ty Lee and Ron Weeks—*Tracking Bird Migration through Nocturnal Flight Calls*

Saturday, April 30

- All Day Birding
4:45-7:30 AM Box Lunch Pick-up and Field Trip Departures
4:00-5:00 PM Speaker: Sue Heath—*GCBO's American Oystercatcher Stewardship Program*
5:00-5:30 PM Social Time (Cash bar with wine and beer will be available. No liquor is allowed to be served in the church.); Silent Auction closes at 5:30 PM
5:30-6:00 PM Announcements/Field Trip Reports
6:00-6:45 PM Banquet (serving begins)
6:45-7:45 PM Keynote Speaker: Tiffany Kersten - *Birdie Big Year: Elevating Women Birders*
8:00-9:00 PM Live auction of Dennis Shepler books and original paintings

Sunday, May 1

- All Day Birding and depart for home
4:45-7:30 AM Box Lunch Pick-up and Field Trip Departures

Registration Information

An email containing the link to registration will be sent soon, so be sure your email address and membership dues payments are up-to-date. (Visit www.texasbirds.org and click Member Information to log in to your account and confirm.) Once you make your event fee payment, you will receive a confirmation email showing the trips you have selected.

An email containing the Zoom links to each day's speakers will be sent to registered attendees a few days before the start of the meeting. Please look for it, and feel free to reach out if you have not received it by April 26.

For any questions, or if you do not have access to the internet, you may call Judy Kestner at 361-701-1962 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.

Event Prices

Spring Meeting Package (includes Speaker Package)

\$90 for TOS members

\$125 for Non-TOS members (includes a one-year membership)

FREE for all students

Speaker Package Only

\$25 for TOS members

\$60 for Non-TOS members (includes a one-year membership)

Saturday Banquet

\$35 (can be purchased even if you are not attending the rest of the event)

Registration cost will increase by \$10 on April 18, 2022.

**** All presentations will be recorded so that anyone who purchases either the Meeting or Speaker Package can watch later at their convenience. ****

Meeting Presentations

Thursday Evening

7:00 PM

Title: *Dennis Shepler*

Presenter: Fred Collins, Director - Kleb Woods Nature Preserve

Description: I met Dennis Shepler in the fall of 1968 when I joined Dr. Keith Arnold's snipe crew at TAMU. Dennis was a senior member of the crew which was run by a graduate student. Dennis and I hit it off immediately both of us being hardcore birders. A strong friendship developed over the years as we roamed Texas and Mexico together, often accompanied by Victor Emanuel.

We had a difficult time with school in the spring of 1970. Dennis had a light course load and we would often go birding on cool fronts in a nearby patch of woods. Birding would be good and I would convince him to skip class and, of course, I had to reciprocate an hour later when I had class. However, ultimately 50 years later, the birds and the

friendship we grew were in fact far more important than the classes we cut. Some of our last forays together were to the Panhandle of Texas where we shared discovering Lesser Prairie Chicken leks, and visiting Adobe Walls. I hope you will join me to reminisce about the Life and Times of William Dennis Shepler, Texas birder “extraordinaire.”

Bio: Fred Collins is a life member of Texas Ornithological Society and of the Southwestern Association of Naturalists. He’s a long-time member of the American Ornithologist Union, the Wilson Society, and Association of Field Ornithologists. Fred has been active within the Houston Audubon Society since 1972, served as president (1982-85) and currently serves on their advisory board. He’s also a member of the Katy Prairie Conservancy advisory board. He’s a former Director of the Nature Discovery Center from 1994-2002. Since 2002 he’s been employed by Harris County Precinct 3 and now Precinct 4 and has developed Kleb Woods Nature Center and Heritage Farm. He also developed Cypress Top Historic Park. He is currently the Director of Kleb Woods Nature Center and Historic Farm and Director for John Paul Landing Environmental Education Center.



Fred Collins

Fred was formerly a consultant wildlife biologist for 20 years and lives on 100 acres of the Katy prairie with his wife in their now empty nest with two dogs, eight horses, an uncountable flock of free ranging chickens, and about 40 parrots. Well maybe the nest isn’t exactly empty, though his and his wife’s two sons have long since fledged.

Friday Afternoon

4:00 p.m.

Title: *SPLASH - Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines*

Presenter: Celeste Silling, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory Education and Outreach Manager

Description: In this presentation, Celeste will introduce SPLASH, or Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines. She will describe marine debris and its effects on ecosystems, organisms, and birds in particular.

Bio: Celeste was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. She attended Lawrence University in Wisconsin and received her Bachelor’s degree in Biology in 2016. Focusing on her passions of conservation and education, she has had a variety of research and education jobs. Working with birds and doing education and outreach were always her favorite parts of these jobs. Now she is pursuing her talents and interests as the Education and Outreach Manager



Celeste Silling

at Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Celeste and GCBO helped found and maintain the SPLASH program in partnership with American Bird Conservancy and Black Cat GIS. Through her work with this program, she helps educate the public about the threat of marine debris.

Friday Evening

7:00 PM

Title: *Tracking Bird Migration through Nocturnal Flight Calls*

Presenter: Cin-Ty Lee and Ron Weeks

Description: Twice a year, birds are on the move. As the length of sunlight decreases in the north, birds migrate south towards the equator. In spring, they return north to the breed. Most birds migrate in the night, using daylight hours to find food to continue on their long journeys. This dark migration would go largely unnoticed were it not for recent developments in our ability to detect and identify migrants flying overhead by their flight calls.

In this presentation, you will learn how to record, process and identify flight calls. We will then present results of nocturnal surveys done on the upper Texas coast over the last two years. In particular, results of continuous acoustic surveys in the fall revealed new information on the migratory patterns of shorebirds, sparrows, and thrushes, many of which are under-detected during the day because they do not stop or, if they do, have secretive habits. Our surveys also reveal in much more detail than ever before how weather influences the passage of migrants.

Bios: Cin-Ty Lee has been birding since he was ten years old. He’s lived in Houston for 18 years, where he teaches geology and ornithology at Rice University.



Cin-Ty

He has written numerous articles on challenging bird identifications, such as pewees, dowitchers, female orioles, pipits and loons. He has recently begun a dedicated effort to track nocturnal migrants over Houston with passive recording.

Ron Weeks lives in Lake Jackson, TX with his wife of 32 years, Irenna Garapetian. Ron is a past president of TOS, a former member of the Texas Bird Records Committee, and present member of the TOS nominating committee. He has been a sub-regional editor for North American Birds, a Christmas Bird Count compiler, and an eBird reviewer for many years.



Ron Weeks

Ron has co-authored two books about Texas birds, *A Birder’s Guide to the Texas Coast* and *Birdlife of Houston, Galveston and the Upper Texas*

Coast. He also enjoys planning Big Days, having organized teams that set the national record of 258 species in 2001, and the fossil fuel free (bike and foot only) national record of 193 species in 2015.

Ron recently retired from the Dow Chemical Company in Freeport, TX to spend more time birding, working out, and supporting local ministry work.

Saturday Afternoon

4:00 PM

Title: GCBO's American Oystercatcher Stewardship Program

Presenter: Susan Heath, GSBO Director of Conservation Research

Description: Sue will discuss GCBO's American Oystercatcher Stewardship program and reveal the secrets of the lives of oystercatchers from her 12 years of monitoring them during the breeding season on the upper Texas Coast. If you think oystercatchers are just big goofy shorebirds with bright orange bills, think again! Mated pairs are monogamous during the breeding season but the male better perform well or the female will find a new mate during the non-breeding season. Come learn about this and other interesting life history traits of one of our most iconic shorebirds.

Bio: Susan Heath is a native Texan who returned to the state in 2007 after being transplanted to Virginia for 24 years. After serving in the U.S. Navy for four years and working as a computer security analyst in the Washington D.C. area for 12 years, she decided to return to school to focus on employment that was more personally meaningful.



Susan Heath

She received a Master's in Biology from George Mason University for her work on wintering waterfowl on the Northern Virginia Piedmont in 2003 and a Ph.D. from the same institution in the spring of 2008. Her dissertation involved the effects of pesticides on birds that nest in agriculture in the north central states.

At GCBO, she is in charge of conservation research including research projects focused on American Oystercatcher Stewardship, Beach Nesting Birds, Non-breeding shorebirds, Black Skimmer monitoring, Motus Tower Network, Eastern Willet Migration, Bird Use of Intertidal Reef, Loggerhead Shrike Conservation, and the Smith Point Hawk Watch.

Saturday Evening

7:00 PM

Title: Birdie Big Year: Elevating Women Birders

Presenter: Tiffany Kersten

Description: Tiffany Kersten didn't set out to do a big year, but after a series of unanticipated and serendipitous events, she suddenly found herself amidst one. As a sexual

assault survivor, she spent 2021 traveling to all corners of the Lower 48 States, gifting personal safety alarms to women she met on the trails, and raising awareness of women's safety in the outdoors. Her initial goal was to see 700 species, but she wound up breaking that record.

Bio: Tiffany Kersten is a Wisconsin native, turned Texan by way of New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Hawaii. She holds a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology from Northland College, and has spent over a decade as an environmental educator. She has taught about raptor identification and migration with the Cape May Bird Observatory, monitored shorebirds on Cape Cod, banded Honeycreepers in Hawaii, and finally landed in South Texas.



Tiffany Kersten

She first worked at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, then Quinta Mazatlan World Birding Center, then managed the McAllen Nature Center, before completing a Lower 48 States Big Year in 2021, and founding her own bird guiding company, Nature Ninja Birding Tours. She guides primarily in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, but occasionally in other areas as well.

Live Auction Items

In addition to his enthusiasm for birdwatching, Dennis Shepler was a well-known artist in our community. Many people purchased his original works and prints, and quite a few commissioned paintings from him. Among the items left to TOS and GCBO are 10 original paintings by Dennis. Sue Orwig has donated one of her Dennis Shepler originals to the auction as well.

The live auction will be held during the TOS Annual Spring Meeting's banquet on Saturday, April 30 at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Lake Jackson. The banquet begins at 6 PM, and the live auction is from 8 to 9 PM. Banquet-only tickets will be available for purchase to those who do not wish to participate in the rest of the Spring Meeting. The cost is \$35 per person and includes the banquet, keynote speaker Tiffany Kersten, and live auction.



Yellow-billed Oxpecker with Zebra
Size, including frame: 37" x 26.25"



White-tailed Hawks over grass fire
Size, including frame: 21.25" x 25.75"



Pompano sp, gyotaku print (2005)
Size, including frame: 28.25" x 13.25"



Long-tailed Manakin (1996)
Size, including frame: 18.5" x 26"



Black-headed Trogon (2009)
Size, including frame: 17.5" x 21.5"



Pied Puffbird (2012)
Size, including frame: 13.25" x 16.25"



Rufous-naped Wren (2017)
Size, including frame: 15" x 18"



Barn Owl (no visible signature or date)
Size, including frame: 21" x 27"



Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (2011)
Size, including frame: 23" x 19"



Ring-necked Duck, pair (2018)
Size, including frame: 18" x 22"



Red-breasted Nuthatch, unframed (2019)
Size (no frame): 12" x 16"

TOS 2022 Spring Meeting in Lake Jackson—Field Trips

Trip #	Field Trip & Description	County	Difficulty	Hours	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	# Available
1	Quintessential Quintana —This trip will visit a variety of coastal habitats including a manmade freshwater wetland, brackish lagoons, beaches, dunes, jetties, and in particular focus on the wooded patches of the Quintana Neotropical Zone and Xeriscape Sanctuary for neotropical migrants. Expect to see beautiful warblers, buntings, orioles and grosbeaks up close and personal, not to mention thrushes, vireos, flycatchers and more. The beach and jetties might host Lesser Black-backed Gulls and a chance for a Red Knot or small Plover. Light walking on uneven surfaces.	Brazoria	Easy	6:15 AM–3:00 PM	X	X	X	12
2	Slough of Birds—Brazoria NWR and Cannan Bend —Join us for a host of shorebirds, marsh birds and lingering waterfowl along the Big Slough auto tour. Incoming tides combine life-giving nourishment from the Gulf with fresh river waters to create one of the most biologically rich environments in Texas. Brazoria NWR is home to a diversity of coastal wildlife, including more than 320 species of birds. Cannan Bend, one of the newest USFWS refuge tracts of coastal forest, and just recently opened to the public, provides great opportunities for colorful warblers, orioles, buntings and grosbeaks. We might even get a chance to see Wood Thrushes and Blackburnian Warblers. The trip is mostly car-based, with light walking.	Brazoria	Easy	6:15 AM–3:00 PM	X	X	X	12
3	Scissortails, Moccasins, Wolves and Bobcats—San Bernard NWR including the Sargent Unit —While all of these except wolves are possible on this trip, these are actually names of some of the amazing trails and driving routes at San Bernard NWR. Stretching inland from the Gulf beaches into the bottomland forests of the Brazos and San Bernard River basins, San Bernard NWR provides vital habitat for migrating and wintering birds as well as resident wildlife. The refuge manages salt marshes and saltwater lakes, coastal prairies and riparian and bottomland forests and supports a diversity of coastal wildlife, including more than 320 species of birds. This trip provides great opportunity to see migrating shorebirds like Pectoral and White-rumped Sandpipers as well as delightful warblers along Scissortail Trail and Bobcat Woods. The tour will be a mixture of driving and moderate hiking on both uneven and flat substrate or boardwalk.	Brazoria	Moderate	6:00 AM–3:00 PM	X	X	X	12
4	Surfs up!—Surfside, Follett’s Island and San Luis Pass —Start at the Surfside jetty for a chance at Lesser Black-backed Gull, Common Tern and possibly even migrating seabirds. Drive the 14-mile stretch of Follette’s Island for Wilson’s, Piping and Snowy Plovers and a chance for Red Knot and American Oystercatchers. Coastal salt marsh, Salt Cedar and mudflats will provide opportunities for neotropical migrants, shorebirds, Least Bittern, Clapper Rail and perhaps lingering Nelson’s Sparrow. Anticipate some walking on the jetty, driving on the beach and on dirt/mud roads (if dry) back to the bays.	Brazoria	Moderate	6:30 AM–3:00 PM	X	X	X	12
5	Warbler Obsession—Quintana and Cannan Bend ... and any place else we might find warbler! This trip will focus on warblers. Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Magnolia and so many more will be the stars as we walk the migrant traps and Columbia Bottomlands hardwood forests near the coast. We’ll keep eyes peeled and ears wide-open for other woodland birds like Wood and Swainson’s Thrushes, Baltimore and Orchard Oriole and even a long-shot chance at Black-billed Cuckoo. Cannan Bend is one of the newest USFWS refuge tracts and just recently opened to the public. GCBO manages the Quintana Neotropical and Xeriscape Zones. Some walking on uneven surfaces. Handicap access at both locations.	Brazoria	Easy	6:30 AM–3:00 PM	X	X	X	12
6	Two dead cows to the beach—West Galveston Island —Visit famed neotropical migration sites on Galveston’s West Island such as Lafitte’s Cove, and Dos Vacas Muertes, as well as Galveston Island State Park, East Beach and San Luis Pass. This trip provides a chance for a nice mix of migrating shorebirds and neotropical passerines, especially those colorful warblers, buntings, orioles and grosbeaks. The water drips at Lafitte’s Cove are real magnets for these colorful little jewels and we’ll hope to see Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warblers, Painted Buntings, Baltimore Orioles and so much more! There might also be a chance to hear Black Rail at the Galveston Island State Park! Expect driving (\$2 cash toll required at San Luis Pass) and moderate walking.	Galveston	Moderate	6:00 AM–3:30 PM	X	X	X	12
7	Peep This!!—Shorebird ID with Dr. Cin-Ty Lee —The upper coast of Texas is one of the best shorebirding areas in North America and late April is prime time to observe migrant and breeding shorebirds. Join Dr. Cin-Ty Lee, famed geologist professor at Rice University and avian author, artist and researcher to get a crash course in shorebird identification. This trip will try to maximize the number of species seen, along with learning how to identify them. We’ll spend time along the immediate coast as well as inland areas. Expect to see 20+ species of shorebirds with dowitchers, ‘peeps’ and yellowlegs figuring prominently in the ID portion of the trip. Dr. Lee is ‘the’ expert on separating these difficult species groups and you won’t want to miss this incredible learning opportunity. (Dr. Lee will also present his work on nocturnal flight calls during the evening speaker session on Friday—a perfect combo for this trip!) There is a \$20 additional fee for this trip since we are limiting the size to maximize the experience and learning opportunity.	Brazoria	Easy	6:15 AM–3:00 PM	X			10

8	<p>Millions of Birds—The Nature Conservancy’s Brazos Woods and Hanson Riverside County Park—Nestled within one of the most ecologically rich expanses in Texas, Brazos Woods Preserve comprises 681 acres of lush, old-growth forests and wetlands known as the Columbia Bottomlands. This Columbia Bottomland habitat is critically important for resting, feeding and stopover for avian residents and visitors alike. Radar evidence indicates that as many as 29 million birds from 237 species move through the Columbia Bottomlands annually. The Brazos Woods property is normally closed to the public so this is a great opportunity to see this special place. The Hanson River County Park borders the San Bernard River and is another great example of Columbia Bottomlands woods. Both properties will feature inland neotropical migrants like Indigo Buntings, Baltimore and Orchard Orioles, Red-eyed Vireo, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and beautiful wood warblers like Blackburnian and Chestnut-sided, and perhaps Bay-breasted. Moderate walking on uneven surfaces.</p>	Brazoria	Moderate	6:30 AM–3:00 PM	X				12
9	<p>Fort Bend County Hot Spots—The tour will feature a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on upland and riparian habitats, and may include a private ranch. eBird has many hotspots listed, with Brazos Bend SP having the highest tally. Shorebirds, herons and egrets, raptors, woodpeckers and warblers, orioles, buntings and grosbeaks are some of the family groups likely to be seen...with a possible chance for a Limpkin! Though not a Century Club trip, this one provides a great opportunity to see over 100 species. Car-birding and moderate walking.</p>	Fort Bend	Easy	6:00 AM–3:30 PM	X				12
10	<p>Texas Century Club Trip 1—Colorado County—Century Club trips are fast paced outings with the goal of maximizing the number of species seen/heard within the county. There is very little time for lingering looks so prepare to move briskly from spot to spot. Extensive driving to/from sites and roadside birding are the norm. The tour will feature a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on upland and riparian habitats, rice fields, lakes and wetlands, and may include a private ranch. It is also home of the Attwater’s Prairie-Chicken NWR. Colorado County is relatively under-birded despite having lots of proven potential. Shorebirds, herons and egrets, raptors, woodpeckers and neotropical migrants are some of the family groups likely to be seen. Attwater’s Greater Prairie-Chicken, Great Kiskadee, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Painted Bunting are just some of the great species we hope to encounter. Mostly car birding with a little walking.</p>	Colorado	Easy	5:15 AM–5:00 PM	X				12
11	<p>Texas Century Club Trip 2—Wharton County—Century Club trips are fast paced outings with the goal of maximizing the number of species seen/heard within the county. There is very little time for lingering looks so prepare to move briskly from spot to spot. Extensive driving to/from sites and roadside birding are the norm. The tour will visit Hollywood Bottom Park, FM 1162 County-line Wetland, Pierce Ranch, King Ranch Turf Farm and feature a wide variety of species including Bald Eagle, Buff-breasted Sandpipers, American Golden-Plovers, Baird’s and Pectoral Sandpipers, warblers, vireos and more. It is very safe to say that Wharton County is an under-birded county with lots of potential and we look forward finding lots of great birds. Mostly car birding with light walking.</p>	Wharton	Easy	5:30 AM–5:00 PM	X				12
12	<p>Going mad...for birds!—The Nature Conservancies Mad Island Marsh Preserve—The coastal prairie, freshwater wetlands and salt marshes that comprise Clive Runnells Family Mad Island Marsh Preserve are in dynamic and continuous flux. The Preserve is a remnant jewel of what used to be over 9MM acres of coastal prairie. The thorn scrub that thrives along the Intracoastal Waterway and saline mudflats of Matagorda Bay attract many additional species. The Preserve, ground-zero for the nation-leading Matagorda County CBC, hosts over 300 species of birds and we’ll have great opportunities for both Least and American Bittern, King Rail, Purple Gallinule and so much more. There may even be a chance to hear Black Rail. The Preserve is normally closed to regular public access. On the way back to Lake Jackson, we’ll make a stop at Hanson Turf Farm for American Golden-Plover and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Don’t miss this one! Car-birding and light walking.</p>	Matagorda	Easy	5:30 AM–3:00 PM	X	X			12
13	<p>Over the river and through the woods to...Prairies, Beaches and Turf Farms—Matagorda County Hot Spots—The tour will feature a majority of the Matagorda County Birding Hot Spots; places like Chiquapin Road, Matagorda Beach, Hanson Turf Farm, Oyster Lake and the Birding Center. We’ll visit coastal prairie, beaches, mudflats, turf farms, riparian corridors and more. Though the home of the nation-leading Matagorda County CBC, it’s safe to say that Matagorda County, outside of CBC season is an under-birded county. This trip has a very good chance of finding over 100 species and will give participants an appreciation of the avian richness and diversity along of Matagorda County. Shorebirds like Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Baird’s Sandpiper, Upland Sandpiper and American Golden-Plovers are very likely on this trip. Colorful neotropical passerines like Painted Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Blackburnian Warbler will also figure prominently in this trip. This will be a fast-paced trip with car-birding and moderate walking.</p>	Matagorda	Easy	5:45 AM–3:30 PM		X			12

14	Bird ID Photography with Clay Taylor —If you are not a dedicated photographer that carries a DSLR and a 100-400mm zoom lens with you while birding, you can still get photos to document your rare sightings or include on your eBird list – use your spotting scope or even your binocular! Any Digital SLR or SmartPhone can take remarkable bird photos through a spotting scope (DigiScoping/Phone Scoping), and phones will work fine through a binocular, too. Join Clay Taylor in the field, where the group will be able to try out the different camera/scope/binocular combinations. Be sure to bring your spotting scope & tripod, plus DSLR / Mirrorless ILC and/or SmartPhone. If you do have a tele-zoom lens, bring that too, so you can compare the results vs. spotting scope photography! If you don't have a spotting scope, Clay will bring extras. Make sure your batteries are fully-charged, and your memory cards are empty!	Brazoria	Easy	6:45 AM–2:00 PM			X	12
15	Breakfast with the Birds—Gulf Coast Bird Observatory (GCBO) and Dow Woods —Visit the GCBO headquarters to learn more about important work that's helping to preserve the richness of Gulf Coast avifauna. If that weren't enough, savor a light continental breakfast and join GCBO's bird banding crew as they show you the bird banding process, a critical avian research tool. See amazing woodland birds in-hand and experience the thrill of having one of these delicately armored jewels lift-off from the palm of your hand. We have chances for Northern Parula, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole and Painted Bunting After the bird banding at GCBO, we'll take a short drive to Dow Woods for more woodlands birding to add to our warbler tally; can you say Blackburnian Warbler! Expect moderate walking, and an exciting time.	Brazoria	Easy	6:45 AM–2:30 PM		X		12
16	Just Peachy —The JB Harrison Foundation's Burr Property is tucked away in Wharton County near the community of Burr and near Peach Creek. It encompasses approximately 1,500 acres, managed for waterfowl and songbirds. This beautiful property includes 3 large Bald Cypress and Live Oak-lined lakes and associated wetland areas. One of these lakes serves as a nesting site for colonial waterbirds like Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret and Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. Other habitats like wooded timber, grassland, open pasture, and row crop will add chances for buntings, orioles, grosbeaks, Dickcissel and more. The trip will also visit the King Ranch Turf Farm near Lane City for an excellent chance at Buff-breasted Sandpipers and American Golden-Plovers. Moderate walking on uneven surfaces.	Wharton	Moderate	6:15 AM–3:00 PM		X		12
17	Texas Century Club Trip 3—Austin County —Century Club trips are fast paced outings with the goal of maximizing the number of species seen/heard within the county. There is very little time for lingering looks so prepare to move briskly from spot to spot. Extensive driving to/from sites and roadside birding are the norm. The tour will feature a variety of habitats, with an emphasis on upland and riparian habitats, and may include a private ranch. For being so near a large metro area like Houston, it's safe to say that Austin County is an under-birded county and a real gem to be discovered and enjoyed. eBird has ten hotspots listed with Stephen F Austin SP having the highest tally. Shorebirds, herons and egrets, raptors, woodpeckers and possibly warblers as well as other colorful neotropical migrants are some of the species we expect to see. This trip is a must-do for any aspiring Century Clubbers.	Austin	Easy	5:00 AM–5:00 PM		X		12
18	Texas Century Club Trip 4—Jackson County —Century Club trips are fast paced outings with the goal of maximizing the number of species seen/heard within the county. There is very little time for lingering looks so prepare to move briskly from spot to spot. Extensive driving to/from sites and roadside birding are the norm. The tour will feature as wide a variety of habitats as available. It is truly a hidden gem! This trip will visit CR 127, Lake Texana, Tejano Formosa Wetlands, east shore of the Carancahua Bay and hopefully find 100 species comprised of herons, egrets, raptors, woodpeckers and neotropical migrants like warblers, orioles and buntings. Mostly car birding with light walking.	Jackson	Easy	5:00 AM–5:00 PM		X		12
19	Fusion—Birds & Texas History —This unique trip will follow a route that has great birding as well significant, but little known history of Texas Revolution. Stops will include Cradle of Texas sites, historical markers, and other important sites for Texas Independence. One of our first stops will be the Justin Hurst WMA, and include small migrant traps, and wetlands. Our final stop will be at Atwatter NWR. Along this route we should find lingering waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and northbound migrants like warblers, orioles, buntings and grosbeaks. A great way to head for home with car-birding and light walking involved. Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Colorado Counties include in this route.	Ft. Bend and Harris	Easy	6:45 AM–1:00 PM			X	12
20	Paddling for Birds—Christmas Bay Kayak Trip —Bird the (usually) tranquil waters of Christmas Bay (inland from Follett's Island) by kayak. Get up-close and personal with Clapper Rail, Eastern Willet, Least Bittern, Seaside Sparrow and perhaps Roseate Spoonbills and shorebirds, herons and egrets. There's nothing quite like noiselessly gliding through this the unique estuarine habitat that these amazing birds call home. Most of the nooks and crannies that this tour visits are accessible in no other way. Truly a unique experience! There is a \$20 additional fee required to cover kayak rental. Single and tandem kayaks available—please specify. Paddle and Personal Flotation Device included. Moderately difficult.	Brazoria	Moderate	6:30 AM–1:00 PM			X	12

21	<p>Limpkin Lunacy—Brazos Bend State Park and JB Harrison Foundation’s Long Point Ranch—Just a year ago, there had <u>never</u> been a Limpkin reported in Texas. Then BAM! The first Texas state record of Limpkin was found at Brazos Bend State Park, and apparently the bird had company. This first sighting, quickly grew into a small colony. (There is also a small group of Limpkin at Sheldon Lake east of Houston.) Brazos Bend SP has a range of contrasting habitats from grasslands to bottomland hardwood forests to freshwater sloughs, bayous, and lakes. While the Limpkins will be our primary target, this tour may also provide opportunities for Purple Gallinule, Least Grebe and variety of warblers, buntings, orioles and grosbeaks. This trip will also visit the private JB Harrison Foundation Long Point Ranch, noted for Cypress-lined ponds, rookeries and Great Kiskadees. Moderate walking. State Park entrance fee or park pass required.</p>	Fort Bend	Moderate	6:00 AM–1:00 PM			X	12
22	<p>Texas Parks and Wildlife’s Justin Hurst Wildlife Management Area (WMA)—The Justin Hurst WMA, located in the town of Jones Creek, offers a variety of saltwater and freshwater wetlands for lingering waterfowl and shorebirds along with some of the first bottomlands woods northbound migrants encounter on their way north. It is open for duck hunting in season, but all but a small portion near SH36 is only open to birders during special events such as this field trip. You can expect to see bitterns and rails and lots of shorebirds like dowitchers, Wilson’s Phalarope, White-rumped Sandpiper and more. Depending on conditions, the woods could be dripping with neotropical passerine migrants like warblers, bunting, orioles and grosbeaks. We’ll pay particular attention to such beauties as Painted Bunting. Car-birding and light walking.</p>	Brazoria	Easy	6:15 AM–1:00 PM		X		12

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Texas Ornithological Society
Profit & Loss
January through December 2021

	<u>Jan - Dec 21</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Total 43300 · Direct Public Grants (TPWD for Hooks Woods)	\$ 5,000
43410 · Corporate Contributions	\$ 1,045
43450 · Contributions - General	\$ 9,035
43452 · Contributions - Sanctuary	\$ 3,443
Total 43400 · Direct Public Support	<u>\$ 13,523</u>
45020 · Dividend, Interest (Securities)	\$ 7,872
45030 · Interest-Savings	\$ 84
Total 45000 · Investments	<u>\$ 7,956</u>
46410 · Advertising Sales	\$ 300
46450 · Annual Meetings Revenue	\$ 7,144
46460 · Field Trip Revenue	\$ -
46461 · Zoom Class Revenue (e.g. Hawks)	<u>\$ 6,441</u>
46472 · Sabine Woods Collections at refuge	\$ 6,044
46476 · Hooks Woods Collections at refuge	<u>\$ 345</u>
Total 46400 · Other Types of Income	<u>\$ 20,274</u>
47200 · Program Income	
47220 · Life Member Dues	\$ 6,143
47230 · Membership Dues - Individual	\$ 9,779
47232 · Membership Dues - Family	\$ 7,317
47234 · Membership Dues - Student	\$ 185
47236 · Membership Dues - Sustaining	\$ 826
Total 47200 · Program Income	<u>\$ 24,250</u>
47300 · Royalties Earned (book)	\$ 338
Total Income	<u><u>\$ 71,340</u></u>
Expense	
60300 · Awards and Grants	
60312 · Texas Parks & Wildlife Sponsor (Texas Birding Classic)	\$ 7,500
60320 · Cash Awards and Grants	\$ 1,500
60330 · Noncash Awards and Grants	\$ 241
Total 60300 · Awards and Grants	<u>\$ 9,241</u>
60960 · Sales Tax	\$ 49
62110 · Accounting Fees	\$ 800
62140 · Legal Fees	\$ 5,629
Total Contract Services & Sales Tax	<u>\$ 6,478</u>
62852 · Sabine Woods Expenses	\$ 1,614
62853 · Sabine Woods Revenue Share w/ GT Audubon	\$ 1,112
62854 · Magic Ridge Expenses	\$ 669
62856 · Hooks Woods Expense	\$ 4,364
Total 62800 · Expenses at Refuges (\$2474 bleacher construction at Hooks Woods)	<u>\$ 7,759</u>
65000 · Operations	
Publishing & Editing (journal, newsletter)	\$ 13,888
Payments to class instructors, meeting speakers	\$ 6,793
Website, ZOOM meetings & classes	\$ 5,340
Transaction Fees (Neon, Paypal, Square, Capitol One)	\$ 1,577
Membership Secretary, Postage, Supplies	\$ 2,384
Total 65000 · Operations	<u>\$ 29,981</u>
65100 · Other Types of Expenses	
65115 · Membership--Land Trust	\$ 1,000
65120 · Insurance - Liability, D and O	\$ 5,270
Total 65100 · Other Types of Expenses	<u>\$ 6,270</u>
Total Expense	<u><u>\$ 59,729</u></u>
Net Income	<u><u>\$ 11,611</u></u>

2:50 PM

01/31/22

Accrual Basis

Texas Ornithological Society
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2021

	Dec 31, 21
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
100 · Petty cash	50.00
10010 · Capital One Checking	7,728.63
10020 · Capital One Savings	53,957.81
10100 · PayPal Cash Account	789.73
14010 · TD Amer Cash Operation	5,525.58
14020 · TD Amer Securities Operation	150,528.09
14021 · TD Amer Operation (Market Adj)	104,487.19
14060 · TD Amer Cash Endowment	3,482.31
14070 · TD Amer Securities Endowment	172,375.99
14071 · TD Amer Endowment (Market Adj.)	209,270.97
Total Checking/Savings	708,196.30
Total Current Assets	708,196.30
Fixed Assets	
18010 · Land Magic Ridge	90,153.97
18015 · Land - Magic Ridge 2018 Purchas	261,910.17
18020 · Land Sabine Woods	30,000.00
18030 · Land Crawford Woods	97,493.59
18040 · Land Hooks Woods	54,640.28
18050 · Land Bolivar Flats	1,000.00
18060 · Land Schroeder Island	17,600.00
18070 · Land Sanctuary	22,759.14
Total Fixed Assets	575,557.15
TOTAL ASSETS	1,283,753.45
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Equity	
31000 · Unrealized Gain (Loss)	206,584.00
31300 · Perm. Restricted Net Assets	207,466.00
31500 · Temp. Restricted Net Assets	453,047.93
32000 · Unrestricted Net Assets	405,044.31
Net Income	11,611.21
Total Equity	1,283,753.45
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,283,753.45

CAST YOUR VOTE FOR OUR NEW TOS T-SHIRT DESIGNS

Artist Lynn Delvin has created several bird portraits for TOS, and we will use them to create this year's club t-shirts. They are all beautiful, but we only need three designs, and that's where you come in.

We are asking TOS members to vote on their top three favorites, and the winners will be announced during the banquet at our Spring Meeting in Lake Jackson on April 30, 2022.

Here is the link to access the ballot:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1A81cIxi_DIs1Yc4_NS_nGXPzh09Y08JDifBEjaZvfr8/edit

Thanks for taking the time to submit your vote!

Golden-fronted Woodpecker



Green Kingfisher



Altamira Oriole



Morelet's Seedeater



Plain Chachalaca



Red-crowned Parrot



Northern Bobwhite



DONATIONS

Spring 2022 newsletter

General Fund

Chula Sims
Larry & Jane Wilson
Danette Ray
In memory of Ethel Kutac
Michael & Rozanna Francis
Fred Collins
Steve Gross Memorial
Jan Dauphin
Leslie Gilstrap
Rich and Sandy Jesperson

Sanctuary Fund

Robert Mitchum
Bill & Ricki McMillian (non-members)
In memory of Dr. Francis Bostick
David Matson
Sheldon and Joanne Boyce

2021 New Life Members

Christian Walker
Norman Young
Justin Bosler



| ANIMALS |

The 232 animals in this photo were killed by house cats in just one year

The image seeks to draw attention to the more than two billion birds and other animals killed annually by domestic cats in the U.S.

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www.rockporthummingbird.com



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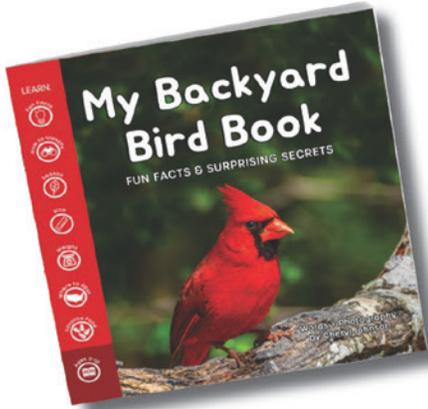
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**Rockport
Fulton**

Charm of the Texas Coast

Photography by Juan Bahamon

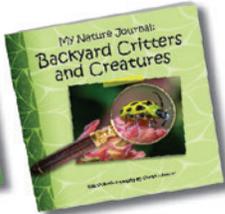
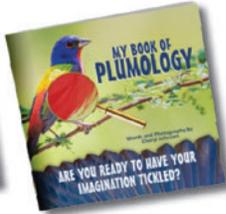


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