

## President's Message



Byron Stone TOS President.

Dear Friends, Birders and TOS Members,

Summer is definitely here, in all its blazing glory. May in central Texas was blissfully cool, but June started off with a hot bang and the temps haven't let up much since. It is nice to have a few days of sub 100 degree temperatures - 98 degrees F is hot, but still not as bad as the 103 degrees plus that we frequently had in early June. Local birds fledged young in late May and early

June, and romped around for a bit in large family groups, but their numbers have dwindled recently, probably from predation by the local pair of Cooper's Hawks. Hey, hawks have young to feed, too!

We had a great spring meeting in Abilene! This was as far as I know the first time for TOS to meet twice in one year in the same city or even in the same part of Texas. I know that not everyone was keen on the idea when they first heard about it, but most of the people that I heard from thought it was fun. We had lots of showy, interesting birds that weren't present back in January, like Scissor-tailed Flycatchers, Western Kingbirds, multiple swallow species, ditto for vireos (including Black-capped Vireo), Summer Tanagers, Painted Buntings, and Bullock's Orioles. Doing back to back meetings in the same city made it possible for us to explore more thoroughly the avifauna of the region, improved the efficiency of our meeting planning, and doubled the financial impact of our presence in the region, which local birders and businesses said they appreciated.

Our plan is to repeat this pattern next year in the valley, with a winter meeting in January and a spring meeting in early May, both in Weslaco. Some people might ask "why go to the valley twice in one year?" But I would ask why wouldn't you want to go birding in the valley twice in one year? It's one of the greatest birding locations in the United States! There's always good stuff in the valley, and many of the specialty birds are present year-round. Most birders probably visit there in the cooler months, but there is also great birding in the spring, with migrant passerines, warblers and shorebirds continuing in good numbers through the middle of May, and some local specialties like Groove-billed Ani and Botteri's Sparrows easier to see in late spring than in the middle of winter. In any event, we're going to try this pattern again next year, and then decide whether it's worth continuing in years beyond that. In my opinion, every part of Texas has birds worth observing almost any time of the year, but especially in winter and in spring.

OK, enjoy your summer breeding birds while they last and get ready for fall migrants. Shorebirds and migrant

hummingbirds have already begun to show up in a few locations, and more will be on the way soon.

Good birding ya'll,

—Byron "Doc" Stone,  
TOS President, 2022-2023

## Abilene in Spring



One of the many pleasures of birding is seasonal change. You can visit the same location at a different time of year and experience a new landscape with some new birds. After enjoying the winter TOS meeting, I was excited to return and see what pleasures Abilene in May might offer. According to the total trip report, our group observed 186 species May 4-7, 2023. In addition, there were

beautiful sunrises, wildflowers in abundance, great speakers, good friends, and plenty of sunshine!

Although winter birding has its own charms, bird song in the spring adds immeasurably to the delight of the sport. The singing Grasshopper Sparrows and Cassin's Sparrows were among the stars of the show this meeting. In Runnels County, driving along country roads we had a conservative count of 21 singing Cassin's and 8 Grasshopper Sparrows in a little over an hour! A Black Crowned Night Heron posed for photos in a riot of spring color.

The following day in Shackelford County we had the privilege of birding a private ranch where a Cassin's Sparrow skylarked as the day was breaking. Clay-colored Sparrow perched long enough for photos in morning light. Chimney Creek Ranch is a family owned property that takes conservation and prairie restoration seriously. Much of the history of the place has been preserved in collections and restoration work.

Speaking of ranching, I was inspired by Anita Hoskins talk about how Audubon Texas, through their Private Lands program, is helping landowners find conservation solutions and bridging the gap between agriculture and grassland bird conservation. The Audubon Certified Beef program is a step in the right direction.

On Saturday night Laura Keene was keynote speaker. She shared with us her photographic big year in 2016 when she photographed as many birds in the ABA area as possible. It was a remarkable and moving story of joy, adventure, and the healing power of nature. Her photographs were a beautiful accompaniment to a well told and moving story.

Although I'm a casual Century Club lister, by returning to Abilene in the spring I finished up two more counties. For lots of reasons, it's great to see a place in more than one season.

—Contributed by Jimma Byrd

## Spring meeting Chimney Creek Ranch field trip



*The Friday Chimney Creek Ranch field trip group with co-owner Hank Paup (back left) in front of the ranch house. Hank saw his first Painted Bunting during our field trip on Friday. As expected, he was smitten by the beautiful male!*

*Chimney Creek Ranch.*



*Lunch and birding from the back porch of the ranch house at Chimney Creek Ranch.*



*Hank educating some of the group on a little of the rich history of*



*Hot birders at the Albany Golf Club.*

*—Contributed by Shelia Hargis*

## Regional Reports

### Region 1—Panhandle

—John Berner

### Region 2—North Central Texas

—Lorrie Mathers

### Region 3—East Texas Timberlands (Pineywoods)

—Laura Wilson

Email: [hummingbirdhill95@gmail.com](mailto:hummingbirdhill95@gmail.com)

### Region 4—Trans-Pecos

The Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration is just around the corner, August 17 – 20. This four day event will be hosted the first time by The High Frontier, a special event center developed on the site of the old High Frontier residential school south of Fort Davis. I hope to see many of you there!

The Pinyon Jays that wintered in the Davis Mountains continued well into May. Dedicated local birders kept the birds well fed and generously allowed birders access to their properties. Chris and I were two such lucky birders. Many thanks to Mike Gray and Cecilia Riley for helping us get this life bird!



Photo by Chris Pipes

As the Pinyon Jays were leaving, many interesting migrants were passing through. Of note were Hooded Warbler (Gage Gardens, Marathon), Yellow-throated Vireo, Kentucky Warbler, Couch's Kingbird (Post Park, Marathon), Cape May Warbler (Christmas Mountains Oasis, Brewster County), Palm Warbler (Candelaria Wetlands, Brewster County), Crescent-chested Warbler (Big Bend National Park), Great Kiskadee (Balmorhea State Park), Hooded Oriole (Fort Davis, various locations.)

On the rare breeding bird front we have the Northern Saw-whet Owl. The species was spotted by Rich Kostecke, Ph.D. and Romey Swanson on two separate occasions and in two different locations on the Davis Mountains Preserve (a TNC property, restricted access). Breeding was confirmed when a fledgling was documented during the June 2-4 open weekend (eBird checklist S140656487) and also by Rich on June 10. If you want to chase this and other interesting high elevation birds, the next open weekend for the Davis Mountains Preserve is August 25 – 27. See [https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-](https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/davis-mountains-preserve/)

[protect/davis-mountains-preserve/](https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/places-we-protect/davis-mountains-preserve/) for more information about the Preserve and to see a calendar of events.



Photos by Rich Kostecke

On the “not rare, but rarely seen” front we have the Montezuma Quail. As you all know, it really is hit or miss on this species - but reports seem to be up this season. I am hopeful that this means they are doing well.



Photo by Rich Kostecke

—Pamela Pipes

Email: [pspipes@gmail.com](mailto:pspipes@gmail.com)

## Region 5—Edwards Plateau Report

—Christine Turnbull  
Email: cbsturnbull@hotmail.com

### Region 6—Central Prairie

Report is slight this season with little or nothing contributed by TOS members beyond myself and a few observers in Williamson & Travis Counties. One observer noted a general observation that small songbird numbers have still not recovered from winter storm Uri in Feb 2021. Regional CBC data should shed light on this question. A **Western Grebe** was present at Granger Lake 4-7 Dec. **Mountain Plovers** were first sighted near Granger Lake on 26 Oct with a maximum count of 25 on 27 Jan. Fourteen were still present in the area on 19 Mar. Amazing was a **Black Skimmer** roosting on a pond in Leander on 3 Jan, a Williamson County first and truly puzzling in early Jan rather than a tropical storm waif during hurricane season.



Photo by Tim Fennell

A **Red-throated Loon** on Granger Lake 4-7 Dec was also a county first. The long-staying **Brown Booby** on Lake Georgetown was last reported 1 Dec. At least 6 **Burrowing Owls** wintered in the Granger area. Granger-area **longspurs** continued scarce as they have been in recent winters. The same was true for vast ag fields in adjacent Bell County. Temple Lions Park continued to host healthy numbers of **Rusty Blackbirds** throughout the season with up to 50 individuals on 23 Feb and 10 individuals when last reported on 10 Mar.



Photo by Randy Pinkston

## Region 6 (Spring Report)

Below I've summarized certain spring highlights from TOS Region 6, primarily involving Bell and Williamson counties because that's where I reside and get input from other birders frequently. But I'd love to hear from all TOS birders in Region 6. Please feel free to send any TOS news my way whenever it happens and I'll save it for the next newsletter. My email address is drpinkston@sbcglobal.net.

Ongoing drought conditions and dropping lake levels create abundant stopover habitat for migrating shorebirds. Through the spring season our Bell County "twin lakes"—Belton and Stillhouse Hollow—were visited by many observers and eBird reports included all expected shorebirds except for Long-billed Curlew and Sanderling (30 species total). This was a good year for **Ruddy Turnstones** and **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** in central Texas.



Ruddy Turnstone & Black-bellied Plovers, Union Grove WMA, photo by Doug Holleman

And ironically, while desiccating reservoirs might be great for migrating shorebirds, those same drought conditions can become detrimental for other wetland species such as rails and bitterns. Bell County had only one report of **American Bittern** for the spring season.



Photo by Doug Holleman, 24 April

Surely the highlight of the season in Bell County was a **Limpkin** that appeared at Temple Lions Park for less than an hour on the afternoon of 26 May. Lions Park lies in the Leon River floodplain and April-May showers flooded the park, as often happens in spring. The lowest areas of the park

became very swampy and looked like a perfect Limpkin spot, although such conditions are ephemeral there and I've never observed any large snails. Many of us locals are hoping the Temple Limpkin reappears.



Temple Limpkin, photo by Deidre Dawson

A **White-tipped Dove** was discovered on 20 April at Pecan Springs Karst Preserve and continued through at least 18 May, providing a first Williamson County record. A very late **Short-eared Owl** was well-documented at Union Grove WMA (Bell County) on 12 April.

**Black-billed Cuckoos** were reported from two Bell County locations in late April, surprising for this far from annual local rarity. Also less than annual in the county, an adult **White-tailed Kite** was a one-day wonder at Union Grove WMA on 2 April.



Photo by Charlie Plimpton

Bell County's first **Cassin's Kingbird** was discovered on 20 May at Union Grove WMA and remained for roughly 24 hours, closely associating with a migrating flock of Eastern Kingbirds. One has to wonder if the Cassin's joined up with these eastbound birds somewhere in southern Mexico and simply hung with them as they moved northeastward. Totally unexpected was a nicely documented **Thick-billed Kingbird** on 13 May at Commons Ford Ranch Metro Park in Travis County, included here since the location borders Region 6, and in case this noteworthy record isn't included elsewhere in TOS regional reports. **Couch's Kingbirds** returned to Belton this spring and successful nesting was again confirmed at Harris Community Park.



Cassin's Kingbird, Union Grove WMA, photo by Randy Pinkston

In 2023 Fort Hood was renamed Fort Cavazos to honor the first Hispanic American four-star Army general and brigadier general. The fort's westernmost reach in Bell County is home to the easternmost nesting pair of **Hutton's Vireos** within that species' entire range, and this year to unprecedented numbers of singing and nesting **Cassin's Sparrows**. And this spring a singing Cassin's Sparrow was discovered on the east side of IH-35 for the first time in several years.



Fort Cavazos Cassin's Sparrow, photo by Randy Pinkston

Unprecedented numbers of especially **Swainson's** but also **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported from Bell & McLennan counties this spring, due in part to experienced younger birders with keen hearing for both songs and nocturnal flight calls.

Always a highlight in central Texas, four **Bobolinks** were sighted on private property in the New Colony area near Rogers on 15 May.

Nesting by any oriole species other than Orchard is significant in Bell County. Therefore, an oriole nest in Temple being constructed in early May by an apparent female **Baltimore Oriole** and a very **Bullock's-like hybrid male oriole** was noteworthy. Nesting by hybrid Northern-type orioles was also documented in McLennan County for

another consecutive season. A singing male Scott's Oriole was well-documented on west Fort Cavazos on 31 May, providing only a second Bell County record.



Northern-type oriole nest in Temple, photo by Charlie Plimpton

Warbler highlights from Bell County in late April/ early May included a male **Cerulean** on 30 April, a well-described male **MacGillivray's** on 4 May, and a female Blackpoll on 5 May. Spring 2023 was great for **Lazuli Buntings** with multiple reports from west Fort Cavazos, Iron Bridge Park on Lake Belton, and Lake Waco wetlands.

—Randy Pinkston

Email: [drpinkston@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drpinkston@sbcglobal.net)

### Region 7—Rio Grande Brushlands

As I am going to Colorado a couple weeks later this year, I have been able to enjoy the bird babies in and around Rockport and Aransas County. In my own yard, Northern Cardinals, Carolina Wrens, and Black-crested Titmouse are everywhere. Glad they are enjoying noshing on my insects and the water pans and misters I put out for them.



The pasture near the Big Tree in Lamar had two baby Willets with their parents. One of the adults was busily keeping a Great-tailed Grackle out of the area.





The bird islands and rookeries are very busy with gorgeous adults and fluffy babies. Tricolored Herons, Reddish Egrets, Great Egrets, Great Blue Herons, and more.



The Black Skimmers nest in an area that has been closed off to the public, which is great, except this is where the fireworks are shot off on the Fourth of July.



Mostly Royal Terns are on Rockport Beach, but there are also a few Sandwich and Caspian.



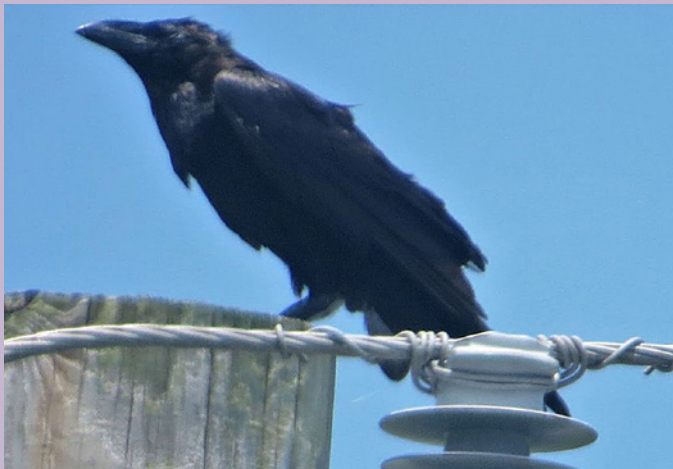
The cutest baby award goes to this Laughing Gull getting comfy under its parent.



*Two birds unusual for the area and considered rare have been around Rockport and Aransas County. The Sooty Tern has been at the Rockport Beach Park since February. I've reported it on eBird at this spot for the last ten years.*



*A Chihuahuan Raven was found on a pole at the rest stop north of Rockport.*



*Keep birding; there's always something great to see no matter the time of year.*

*—Susan Foster*

*Email: idratherbebirding@gmail.com*

## **Region 8 Coastal Prairie**

Spring rarities in our region were positively cuckoo! Just as most birders began to desert the migrant traps in mid-May, a Mangrove Cuckoo appeared in Galveston Co. This represented the fourth record for Region 8, and the first for our area in 26 years! It put on a show for 3 days, and dozens of birders were able to get great looks. Two days later, birders flocked farther east to try for a glimpse of the Gray Kingbird in Jefferson Co. The flycatcher was seen in the same general area where one was reported in 2019.

Our region had a number of notable pelagic bird sightings this season. Masked Booby was reported onshore in Matagorda Co. (March) and offshore in Galveston Co. (June). Galveston Co. also had two Red-footed Booby reports, one nearshore and one offshore (both in May). Most exciting was a first Galveston Co. record for Red-billed Tropicbird, reported offshore (June). We also had three species of rare/uncommon orioles. Hooded Orioles were found in Galveston and Calhoun Co., Bullock's Orioles were reported in Chambers, Fort Bend, and Galveston Co., and a Scott's Oriole was a first record for Austin Co.

In addition to the Scott's Oriole and Red-billed Tropicbird, this season was full of "firsts." In mid-March, the first Calhoun Co. Clay-colored Thrush was reported. This was to be expected as the species has been seen in neighboring counties. A late April Cassin's Sparrow in Jefferson Co. was a first for the county and the first one seen on the UTC east of Galveston. In June, a Black-whiskered Vireo was found in Galveston Co., representing the first summer record for Texas.



*Gray Kingbird (Jefferson Co.). Photo Dimitris Dimopoulos*

I hope you find time to enjoy our rarities and the myriad of spectacular resident species in our region. Stay cool, drink lots of water, and happy birding!

*—Kendra Kocab*

*Email: kenner7683@gmail.com*



## News from the Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC)



*Smooth-billed Ani, photo Dan Jones*

Below is a summary of the records that the Texas Bird Records Committee (TBRC) has reviewed and come to a decision on since December 31st, 2022.

The MAJOR highlight of this batch is the first state record of SMOOTH-BILLED ANI.

During this same time period, Cordilleran and Pacific-slope Flycatchers were lumped into Western Flycatcher. Thus, the addition of the ani offset by the loss of one species due to the Western Flycatcher lump keep the state list at **664**.

Accepted (52):

2023-10 - Brant (1) 15 Jan 2023, west of Holliday, Archer County

2023-01 - Trumpeter Swan ( 8 ) 25 Dec 2022 - 3 Feb 2023, north of Stinnett and Lake Meredith, Hutchinson/Moore County

2023-54 - Eurasian Wigeon (1) 13 Nov - 14 Dec 2022, Balmorhea Lake, Reeves County

2023-08 - Eurasian Wigeon (1) 28 Dec 2022 - 5 Feb 2023, Lewis Lake, Burnet County

2023-13 - Barrow's Goldeneye (1) 15 Jan 2023, Lake Meredith, Hutchinson County

2022-91 - Red-necked Grebe (1) 21-27 Nov 2022, White Rock Lake, Dallas County

2023-16 - Red-necked Grebe (1) 27 Dec 2022, Lake O'The Pines, Marion County

2023-56 - Ruddy Ground Dove (1) 27 Feb - 4 Mar 2023, Lajitas, Brewster County

**2022-85 - Smooth-billed Ani (1) 9-17 Nov 2022, South Padre Is., Cameron County**

2022-95 - Costa's Hummingbird (1) 20 Nov - 7 Dec 2022, El Paso, El Paso County

2023-18 - Common Crane (1) 25-26 Jan 2023, northwest of Wolfforth, Lubbock County

2022-88 - Bar-tailed Godwit (1) 20 Nov 2022 - 23 Jan 2023, Portland & Oso Bay, San Patricio/Nueces County

2022-99 - Red Phalarope (1) 9 Oct 2022, Horizon City, El Paso County

2022-100 - Red Phalarope (1) 24 Oct 2022, Fort Clark Springs, Brackettville, Kinney County

2023-05 - Red Phalarope (1) 7-8 Jan 2023, Mitchell Lake, Bexar County

2023-17 - Short-billed Gull (1) 25 Jan 2023, Amarillo, Randall County

2023-12 - Slaty-backed Gull (1) 7 Feb 2023, Windy Point, Lake Travis, Travis County

2022-69 - Elegant Tern (1-3) 10 Sep - 10 Nov 2022, Port Aransas jetty, Nueces County

2022-92 - Elegant Tern (1) 21 Oct 2022, beach near McFaddin NWR, Jefferson County

2023-02 - Sooty Shearwater (1) 1 Jan 2023, South Padre Is. jetty, Cameron County

2022-86 - Manx Shearwater (1) 10 Nov 2022, ~91 miles east-northeast of the Mansfield cut on Padre Island, Willacy County

2021-112 - Social Flycatcher (1) 10 Nov 2021 - 7 Jan 2023, UT RGV campus, Brownsville, Cameron County

2022-101 - Greater Pewee (1) 9-19 Nov 2022, Alpine, Brewster County

2023-23 - Pinyon Jay (2) 1 Oct 2022, Indio Mountains, Hudspeth County

2022-93 - Pinyon Jay (1-200) 11 Oct 2022 - 4 Jan 2023, east slope of the Guadalupe Mountains, Culberson County

2022-76 - Pinyon Jay (1-5) 25-30 Oct 2022, west-central El Paso, El Paso County

2023-24 - Pinyon Jay (40) 3 Nov 2022, ssw. of Alpine, Brewster County

2023-06 - Pinyon Jay (1-200) 7 Dec 2022 - 16 May 2023, Limpia Creek, nw. of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County

2023-11 - Pinyon Jay (1) 3 Feb 2023, Redford, Presidio County

2023-55 - Clark's Nutcracker (1) 28 Jan 2023, El Paso, El Paso County

2022-77 - Varied Thrush (1) 24-26 Oct 2022, El Paso, El Paso County

2022-96 - Varied Thrush (1) 8 Dec 2022, nw. San Antonio, Bexar County

2023-09 - Varied Thrush (1) 16 Jan 2023, Fisk Canyon, Big Bend NP, Brewster County

2022-75 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 23-26 Oct 2022, Lubbock, Lubbock County

2023-25 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 30 Oct - 6 Nov 2022, wnw. of Alpine, Brewster County

2023-39 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 5-6 Nov 2022, w. of Plains, Yoakum County

2023-44 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 5-6 Nov 2022, west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County

2023-43 - Evening Grosbeak (1-16) 6 Nov - 29 Dec 2022, east slope of the Guadalupe Mountains, Culberson County

2023-26 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 7 Nov 2022, south of Ozona, Crockett County

2023-27 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 12 Nov 2022, Cherokee, San Saba County

2023-40 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 16-19 Nov 2022, sw. of Lake Abilene, Taylor County

2022-87 - Evening Grosbeak (23) 21 Nov 2022 - 16 Apr 2023, Amarillo, Randall County

2023-41 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 22-23 Nov 2022, Alpine, Brewster County

2023-42 - Evening Grosbeak (2) 7 Dec 2022, Limpia Creek, nw. of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County

2023-04 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 2 Jan 2023, Marfa, Presidio County

2023-47 - Evening Grosbeak (1-3) 13 Jan - 7 May 2023, Midland, Midland County

2023-07 - Evening Grosbeak (2) 22 Jan - 7 Apr 2023, south of Lorenzo, Crosby County

2023-46 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 25-27 Feb 2023, Shafter, Presidio County

2023-52 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 5-6 Mar 2023, Graham, Young County

2023-48 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 1 Apr 2023, Davis Mountains SP, Jeff Davis County

2023-49 - Evening Grosbeak (1) 2-13 Apr 2023, Limpia Creek, nw. of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County

2022-74 - Red-legged Honeycreeper (1) 16-27 Oct 2022, Sabine Woods, Jefferson County Not Accepted (3):

2021-90 - Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater (1) 19 Aug 2021, 4 miles southeast of San Jose Is., Aransas County

2022-27 - Sooty/Short-tailed Shearwater (1) 12 Feb 2022, surf near High Island, Galveston County

2022-84 - (Slate-colored) Fox Sparrow (1-2) 28 Oct 2022, Davis Mts SP, Jeff Davis County

*[[Note: The number in parenthesis following the species name is the number of individuals of that species involved in the record.]]*

A number of factors may contribute to a record being denied acceptance. It is quite uncommon for a record to not be accepted due to a bird being obviously misidentified. More commonly, a record is not accepted because the material submitted was incomplete, insufficient, superficial, or just too vague to properly document the reported occurrence while eliminating all other similar species. Also, written documentation or descriptions prepared entirely from memory weeks, months, or years after a sighting are seldom voted on favorably. It is important that the simple act of not accepting a particular record should by no means indicate that the TBRC or any of its members feel the record did not occur as reported. The non-acceptance of any record simply reflects the opinion of the TBRC that the documentation, as submitted, did not meet the rigorous standards appropriate for adding data to the formal historical record.

The TBRC makes every effort to be as fair and objective as possible regarding each record. If the committee is unsure about any particular record, it prefers to err on the conservative side and not accept a good record rather than validate a bad one. All records, whether accepted or not, remain on file and can be re-submitted to the committee if additional substantive material is presented.

If you have any questions on any of these results, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thanks to all of you who have taken the time to submit documentation to the TBRC—it is very much appreciated.

## WEEKENDER PROGRAM RETURNS

TOS is delighted to announce the return of our Weekender programs, beginning this fall with two super three-day excursions.

Weekenders are designed as fundraisers for TOS, and as opportunities for participants to learn about a specific area or about a certain family of birds, such as shorebirds or raptors, paired with field trips to put that knowledge to work. Participants gather on Friday for a presentation, go on a field trip on Saturday with a wrap-up field trip on Sunday ending around noon. The fee for the event is \$100 per person.

Our first Weekender takes place in mid-October on the Upper Texas Coast, guided by TOS member Janey Woodley. After a quick visit on Friday to Cattail Marsh, a member of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society will speak about the area. Saturday and Sunday field trips include stops at our Sabine Woods and Hooks Woods Sanctuaries, Sea Rim State Park and Smith Point HawkWatch to search for south-bound migrants.

The second event is a Whooping Crane Weekender in November, led by TOS Recording Secretary Susan Foster. It kicks off with a Friday presentation by the International Crane

Foundation, and then on Saturday Susan will take you to some of her favorite hot spots in Rockport. The trip concludes on Sunday with a three-hour tour on the Skimmer to see the Whooping Cranes at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

Registration will be open for three days two months before each trip, and attendees will be selected by a random drawing. Two people may register to attend together.

Look for more details soon!



## TOS INVITES YOU TO AN UPPER TEXAS COAST WEEKENDER

OCT. 20-22, 2023 WITH JANEY WOODLEY



TOS member Janey Woodley will lead a Fall Migration Weekender on October 20-22, 2023, guiding TOS members through some familiar areas, and some that are off the beaten path. The group will visit Jefferson, Galveston and Chambers Counties.

Fall migration on the Upper Texas Coast can begin as early as July and last through November. Some species are actually more numerous in the fall than in the spring, and it's a thrilling time to watch the annual southerly flow of our avian friends. FYI, in October of 2019 Janey tallied

16 warbler species at Sabine Woods, so don't miss this opportunity to pump up your year list, your county lists, and maybe your life list!

The trip begins on October 20 with a quick afternoon visit to Cattail Marsh in Beaumont, followed by an evening presentation by a speaker from the Golden Triangle Audubon about the history of the areas to be visited over the weekend, and what species to expect. Then on October 21 you'll carpool to visit TOS' newly expanded Sabine Woods. The afternoon will be spent at Sea Rim State Park and Texas Point NWR, with dinner at a local restaurant that evening to share sightings and relax.

The next day you'll leave the hotel for a tour of the TOS Hooks Woods Sanctuary, Boy Scout Woods and a stopover at the Smith Point HawkWatch, finishing the day between 12:00 and 1:00 pm.

An email with the registration link will be sent on Aug. 6 and registration will open for THREE days on August 25. A random drawing on Aug. 28 will determine the lucky 14 attendees, with a wait list created at this time in case of future cancellations. Payment is due upon registration and will be immediately refunded to those not selected. A maximum of two people can register together. The registration fee is \$100 per person\*.

In the interests of fairness, trip winners will not be eligible for the next Weekender in November of this year, to allow others to participate.

Mark your calendars and be sure your TOS dues are up to date, since this trip is only for our members.

Judy Kestner, TOS Weekender Coordinator

*\*Fee does not cover meals, hotel, tips, or any other incidentals.*

## Past TOS President Dies after Sudden Illness

Lily Lore Engles  
May 15, 1955 - May 20, 2023



Lily Lore Engles, 68, died after a sudden illness on May 20, 2023, in San Antonio, Texas

Lily was President of TOS from the late 90's to about 2000 when Brent Ortego became President. [The series of presidents during that period was Sue Wiedenfeld, David Dauphin (deceased),

Lily Engles, Brent Ortego, Lytle Blankenship (deceased) and Ron Weeks]. Lily was president in 1999 when the 1st issue of Texas Birds (not to be confused Texas Birds Annual) came out. While Shannon Davies, Ro Wauer and Brush Freeman were major drivers of Texas Birds, President Lily Engles provided strong support. Lily was also instrumental in adding an 8.4 acre tract to the original 70 acres of Magic Ridge. She was the primary person dealing with the acquisition. TOS received assistance from Carter Smith who was with TNC at the time handling the purchase negotiations with the Realtor. A number of TOS Board Members used their local contacts to approach industry and various conservation

groups to raise funds for the acquisition of several tracts over the years. Lily was the president when it started and her support was invaluable in its inception. According to Brent Ortego "Lily always stepped up to tasks with energy and desire when asked."

On a personal note I met with Lily, and a few additional individuals in 1999 as part of an Ad Hoc committee on Membership Promotion. We met at her home and discussed numerous possibilities for promoting TOS. She was a gracious host and ambitious President. In addition to membership promotion we often discussed birding in Laredo since I was involved with field studies near Laredo and she was birding the region as time allowed during her frequent visits to the hospital. Having started editing TOS Publications (first the bulletin) in 1997 I have worked with many TOS Presidents. Lily was certainly one of the most productive Presidents.

From the San Antonio Audubon Society "Audubon News" July/August 2023.

**"It is with great sadness that we learn of the passing of Lily Engles, MD on May 20, 2023. Lily was a Life member who joined SAAS in 1988. Lily was on the SAAS Board from 1991-1994 and recently became a Director at Large in 2023. Lily recently took on the role of Publicity Director as well as proofreading the SAAS Newsletter. Lily also served as President of TOS. We will miss Lily's leadership, kindness, and compassion."**

## John Arvin (Great Tinamou)\*

September 13, 1943 – May 5th 2023.



"The Great Tinamou" John Clark Arvin passed away peacefully in his sleep on May 5, 2023. Tinamou was born in Harlingen, TX in 1943 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and studied Biology at Pan American University, University of Houston and his beloved UT Austin. Birds were

his life's passion. From 30 years of leading birding tours to research and archiving to conservation efforts to becoming an author, birds and birding were the heart, soul and body of Tinamou's career. He specialized in birds of the Western Hemisphere with a heavy emphasis on Latin America, particularly Ecuador and Peru. Before retiring he spent

many years as an avian biologist for Texas Parks & Wildlife and the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. He was the author of "Hummingbirds: Volume 1" for the Gorgas Science Foundation.

Tinamou is survived by his cherished daughter, Bianca Arvin, and a lifetime of dear friends in the birding community all over the world. A celebration of his life will be held May 24 at 9a at Turkey Creek Trailhead and will consist of birdwatching and storytelling- Tinamou's two favorite pastimes. If you'd like to celebrate John Arvin's life on your own, pause and appreciate the people others may take for granted, get lost watching a bird fly across the sky, seek out the wildflowers while they're still around, and cheer for the Longhorns no matter how they play every football season.

In lieu of flowers, please support The Nature Conservancy.

**\*Great Tinamou is a name given to John by Edgar Kincaid (Co-author of Birdlife of Texas) . Edgar gave all of his birding friends bird names.**

## Ray Little to Celebrate his Centennial



The legendary Ray Little, a longtime and very important birder in Texas and the Coastal Bend, will celebrate his 100th birthday on Sept 24 with a come-and-go event from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the education building of the South Texas Botanical Gardens in Corpus Christi. The family invites anyone and everyone who knew Ray to attend.

For the September 24 event, the family asks that instead of gifts, donations can be made in his honor to the **Aransas First Land Trust** online, or to P.O. Box 266, Rockport, TX 78381. Birthday cards can be sent to Ray at 202 Fortune Dr., Room 406, Corpus Christi, TX 78405.

## Update to the Summer Texas Pelagic Schedule

Here is an update to the Texas Pelagic Schedule for this summer. The August 23-25 48-hour trip from Freeport has been cancelled. Each 48-hour trip was only about half-full, so I had to decide which one to cancel as I'd run out of time to fill both trips. Many of the participants on the Aug 23 trip were able to move to the Sept 27-29 48-hour trip, so as a result that trip is now almost full and will be sailing. There are still a few spaces available on it so please don't wait too long to make up your mind about going on this great adventure.

Here are the 2 trips for 2023:

Sat. Sept 16th, 14 hours; aboard the Kingfisher from Port Aransas. Over half-full.

Sept 27 - 29: 48 hours; aboard the MV Fling from Freeport. A few spaces still available.

Schedule for 2023 Texas Pelagic Trips: [www.TexasPelagics.com](http://www.TexasPelagics.com)

Visit the website above to learn more about upcoming Texas Pelagic trips, i.e., fares, trip lengths, departure times, spaces remaining, etc.

Register Now At: [www.TexasPelagics.com/go-Texas-pelagic/register-payment](http://www.TexasPelagics.com/go-Texas-pelagic/register-payment)

The September 16th trip is over half-full, but I really need a lot more participants to make it GO. It's getting down to the wire for filling this trip. Now is the time for you to decide if you're willing to keep Texas Pelagics running. You don't have the luxury of waiting until the last minute to decide, because if everyone decides to do that, then these trips won't be possible, and everyone loses.

— *Garett 'Gary' Hodne*



## Species lump for the Western Flycatcher and species status for the goshawk of North America among 2023 Check-list changes

The 64th Supplement to the American Ornithological Society's (AOS) *Check-list of North American Birds*, was published on 1866 in *Ornithology*, includes numerous updates to the classification of North American bird species.

A few highlights from this year's supplement, detailed below, include a species lump for the Western Flycatcher, species status for the goshawk of North America, and species splits in several Caribbean birds leading to five additional species.

The *Check-list*, published since 1886, is updated annually by the AOS's North American Classification Committee (NACC), the official authority on the names and classification of the region's birds, and is consulted by birders and professional ornithologists alike.

The full *Check-list* supplement is available at: <https://doi.org/10.1093/ornithology/ukad023>. (Please note: This link has been updated.)

### Species Lumps and Splits

*(Re)lumping of Cordilleran Flycatcher and Pacific-slope Flycatcher as Western Flycatcher*

In 1989, the Western Flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*) was split into the Pacific-slope Flycatcher (*E. difficilis*) and the Cordilleran Flycatcher (*E. occidentalis*), based mainly on research that identified differences in vocalizations and allozyme frequencies, differences maintained across a small contact zone in California. "These flycatchers are subspecies birds, so vocalizations are extremely important in determining species limits," NACC chair R. Terry Chesser of the U.S. Geological Survey explains. Researchers W. Alexander Hopping, Ethan Linck, and others recently studied a separate contact zone in a large region of the northern Rockies, which was not known when the previous research led to the

species split. This region includes parts of the U.S. states of Washington, Idaho, and Montana, as well as the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. Hopping and Linck (in **Proposal 2023-D-7**) noted that the morphology, vocalizations, and genetics of the Cordilleran Flycatcher and Pacific-slope Flycatcher are not consistently distinguishable in this broad region. "According to the proposal, bird record committees in this area list only a single default species rather than expecting people to identify individual birds as Cordilleran or Pacific-slope," Chesser says. Thus, although the lump will result in the loss of a species for North America, bird identification should be more straightforward for regional checklists.

### Species Split for Northern Goshawk

The Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) is being split into two species. A proposal (**Proposal 2023-B-11**) from NACC member Shawn M. Billerman of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology highlights key vocal and genetic differences between what had been treated as two subspecies groups within Northern Goshawk, the Palearctic *gentilis* and Nearctic *atricapillus* groups. Because the newly recognized Eurasian Goshawk (*A. gentilis*) has occasionally been recorded from North America, a few lucky bird enthusiasts might be able to include both Eurasian Goshawk and American Goshawk (*A. atricapillus*) on their North American lists. "This is an interesting split not only because both species are known from North America, one as a resident and the other as an accidental, but because two different subspecies of the Eurasian Goshawk are known from North America," Chesser says. "Two individuals of the Asian subspecies *albidus* have turned up in Alaska, and there's an old specimen of the European subspecies *gentilis* from Labrador."

## Raptor Expert to offer diurnal raptor identification class



Bill Clark

The Texas Ornithological Society is pleased to announce that world-renowned raptor expert Bill Clark will again lead a diurnal raptor identification class in Corpus Christi on September 29-October 1, 2023.

The cost is \$150 per person, which includes three classroom sessions with Bill and two field trips to the HawkWatch platform at Hazel Bazemore County Park, plus

an 18-page course outline that can be downloaded and printed to use during the weekend.

The host hotel is the Best Western Northwest, again offering a special room price of \$99.99 plus tax, per night. A link to reserve a room will be sent upon registration for the class.

The class is limited to 25 participants, and registration will open on August 15, 2023. An email will be sent to TOS members about a week prior, with the link to register.

Don't miss this opportunity to sharpen your raptor identification skills with one of the best!

# Texas Ornithological Society Board Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2023

President Byron Stone called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m to discuss the proposed 2023 budget. Present at today's Zoom call meeting were Frances Cerbins, John Berner, Christine Turnbull, Susan Foster, Laura Wilson, Kendra Kocab, Romey Swanson, Byron Stone, Judy Kestner, Clay Taylor and Randy Pinkston. Lorrie Mathers joined the meeting. Board members made introductions to Lorrie.

John Berner presented the budget draft for discussion and amendment for 2023. He started with the 2022 numbers and then made changes where warranted. We went over each line item and suggested possible changes to numbers.

Byron Stone suggested reducing the number of the Shepler Art Auction line item since we will not be doing an auction this year.

Sales Revenue: Byron Stone thinks this number possibly will go up since pandemic response is getting better, and people again are attending functions in person.

Extended Field Trips: Last year's Panama trip netted TOS approximately \$10,000. This year's Panama trip will be August 26-Sept 4, 2023, and will be led by Susan Foster. Susan will get flyers made and announce the trip at the winter meeting in Abilene this week. Price per person is \$3,395. Registration will open soon. TOS members can

contact Susan for more information. Randy Pinkston moved to approve this year's Panama trip. Seconded by Susan Foster. All in favor. None opposed. Motion passed. Clay's Costa Rica trips are for 2024. We are hoping to do at least two trips this year.

Collections from sanctuaries. These numbers should stay the same. TOS has not given out money for awards and grants in some time except for the Great Texas Birding Classic, which is the amount shown on the proposed budget.

Legal fees: Magic Ridge numbers may increase. The house has not been moved still, and it may take legal action to get it done. Also, we need to do a big clean up there.

We hope to have Golden Triangle's help with Sabine Woods expenses, and possibly we can fundraise to pay some of this.

The TOS board retreat will be held in the Davis Mountains again this year. The dates are August 11-12. We will meet with a facilitator regarding moving from an all volunteer organization to hiring staff.

Judy Kestner asked if the cost of the website redesign needs to be added to the budget. John Berner paid some of that this year, and will add this to the budget.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

## TOS Plans Trip to Belize

TOS President and raptor enthusiast Byron Stone is hoping to co-lead a TOS trip to Belize in late October of this year for seven nights, from October 21-28, 2023. The trip would cover two main birding locations in Belize: the raptor watch at Punta Gorda (and nearby great birding locations), and two days in the Mountain Pine Ridge region of northwestern Belize.

Trip participants would have the opportunity to possibly see over 30 species of diurnal raptors, including such specialties as King Vulture, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, Roadside Hawk, White Hawk, Black-collared Hawk, Snail Kite, Gray-headed Kite, lots of migrating Hook-billed Kites, Laughing Falcon, Orange-breasted Falcon, Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Black Hawk-Eagle and maybe even Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle and Stygian Owl. We should see over 200 other species of birds, about 20% of which you will never see in Texas, including Ocellated Turkey, Great Currawong, Mayan Antthrush, Yucatan Flycatcher, tinamous, toucans, motmots,

a manakin or two, parrots and parakeets, lots of other flycatchers, over a dozen hummingbird species, and other neotropical birds. In addition, two species of monkeys and some other mammals (maybe even a jaguar?) can be found in Belize, and there is a chance to visit Mayan ruins and learn about (and hopefully sample) locally-produced chocolate, with plenty of good food and great scenery.

We think this trip will cost under \$4,000 (excluding airfare to and from Belize) and will provide a good value for members.

If you think you might want to go on this trip, please contact [info@texasbirds.org](mailto:info@texasbirds.org), and we will make sure your questions are answered. We need at least eight participants, with a maximum of 10. Once we have the final details, we will need to move quickly to meet deadlines.

Good birding ya'll,  
Byron Stone

## Membership reports New Members

From January 1 to May 21, 2023 we saw an incredible 114 new members (including some who were returning after over a year). Comparing this to years past, we had 74 new members in the same period in 2020, 54 in 2021, and 105 in 2022. It's highly likely that the end to the pandemic helped boost numbers, but it's also a fact that bird watching is a growing pastime, with more and more people realizing how rewarding (and pretty much free) it can be to observe birds in the wild. Here is a breakdown by TOS region of our newest TOSsers:

REGION 1 Panhandle	
Ashley	Campbell
Brenna	Troncoso
Anita	Hoskins
Katy	Hoskins
Kenneth	Thompson
REGION 2 North Central	
Rafe	Hembree & Family
Joy	Richardson
Beau	McDaniel
Richard	Davis
Rosealin	Delgado
Jeff	Terrell & Family
Wayne	Alford & Family
Kenneth	Jackson & Family
Robert	Maurer
Ann	Kovich
Michael	Skrehot
REGION 3 Pineywoods	
ED & Mary	Findley
Amy & Charles	Waters
Charles	Watson & Family
Barrett	Riess
Jerry	Alexander
Mark	DePaepe & Family
Kermit & Dorothy	Cummings
Glenn & Pat	Merkord
Wallis	Burnett
William	Benton
Linda	Belssner
Malinda	Reed

REGION 8 Coastal Prairie	
Charles & Terrie	Minero
Stephen	Falick
Jennifer	McFall
Deb	Murphy
Amy	Ondrus
Deborah	Lancaster
Lea	Simmons & Family
Debbie & John	Park
Jim	Ashcraft & Family
Leena	Sawant
Mark	Bernier & Family
Daniel	Brooks
Julia	Cambra
Mary	Petrie
Cory	Rush
Kris	Kalapala
David	Hebert & Family
Maria	Chamberlin
Andrew	Lewis
Kirby	Smith
Allen	Tsao & Family
Donald	Parrott & Family
Gerard	del Junco
Tena	Gardiner
Marion	Beall & Family
Aijing	He
Tina	Petersen & Family
Tom	Pollock
Tammy	Brown
Justin	Halls
Roy & Lesley	Kinkaid
Mark	Brazzil
Amy	Lagueux & Family
Catherine	Thomas
Michael & Laura	Bradham
Blythe	Gorman & Family
Stephen	Ross
Don	Scheifler



**REGION 9  
Out of State**

Sarah	MacLellan
Michael & Janet	Monahan
Elizabeth	Bokram
Gay	Wehrman
William	Russell
Liz	Bokram
Gay	Wehrman
Melissa	Dodson
Michael	Smith
Tom	Hautman & Georgia Schlegle
Timothy	Freiday & Family
Richard	Smith
Jonathan	Feenstra
Cathy	Powell & Family
Thomas	Ferranti
Alida	Brown
Alan & Debra	Craig
Michele	Lutz & Family
Jenifer	Russell

**REGION 10  
Out of Country**

Truls	Andersen
Douglas	Fisher

**Here are a couple of comments from new members:**

*"I decided to join TOS after birding one day at Sabine Woods during last year's spring migration. This is such a wonderful birding site; I returned to Sabine Woods again this year. It is also a wonderful gathering site to meet other birders and learn from them. Although I have been birding for many years, as birders know, there is always more to learn, which is one of the things that makes birding such a great activity. I appreciate the emails concerning events, but I have not participated in them, yet. I hope to visit some of TOS's other birding sites."*

*Harland Prechel, College Station, TX*

*"I loved my time at TOS locations this spring during migration. We are new to birding and had an absolute blast. It was dizzying at times and got me into photography as well. I think birding is probably on an upward trajectory as a hobby. As we see millennials like me reaching into our 40s you are going to find a lot of people who used to love gaming (or still do) who realize that birding offers a lot of the same fun and challenge. Even better, birding gets you out into the world, inspires you to travel, and connects you to wildlife uniquely. All you really need is that first set of binoculars, and you are in the game. Thanks for providing awesome spaces to enjoy the birds and see so many species."*

Cheers,

*Justin Halls, MD MPH*

We encourage our existing TOS members to be on the lookout for the new members of your regional flock and say hi and welcome when you encounter them.



**John O'Neill's 80th Birthday**

Former Director of the LSU Museum of Natural Science and renowned ornithologist and artist Dr. John P. O'Neill recently turned 80! The museum was fortunate enough to be able to host this momentous birthday celebration for John, his family, friends, and colleagues

*Photo by Jonathan Schmitt.*

**TOSNEWS Staff**

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A special thank you to the Writers and Artists who contributed to this publication.

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## Changes in Officers and the Board of Directors



Vice President-Romey Swanson (Previously Director at Large)

### Newly elected positions

#### Treasurer-Director/ Region 2 (North Central) Lorrie Mathers



nature and I still derive a sense of inner peace from birds, forests and streams.

My career was largely spent in the telecommunications industry in finance and accounting roles which took me and my family from Toronto (Canada) to Paris (France) to Singapore and finally to Allen (Texas). We have made Allen our home for about 20 years; I now for NetScout as VP Finance/CFO of business units.

A few years ago, I started thinking about retirement and looked for places where I could dedicate time to feed the soul, finally selecting the Texas Ornithological Society, Prairie and Timbers Audubon and Blackland Prairie Master Naturalists.

While I haven't retired yet, I have ramped up my volunteering with the Master Naturalists (Class of 2021), prairie restoration at the Blackland Prairie Raptor Center and Instagram coordinator/board member for Prairie and Timbers Audubon.

When I was approached to put my CPA/finance skills to work with the Texas Ornithological Society while having a great opportunity to help the Texas birding community, I was quick to jump at the opportunity.

#### Director Region 4 (Trans Pecos)-Pamela Pipes



I studied biology at UT Permian Basin, earning both bachelor's and master's degrees. A plant collection required for a college botany course introduced me to the incredible diversity of flowering plants in Texas. It also led me to the field guide section of the bookstore in search of a guide to

flowering plants, where I discovered Roger Tory Peterson's Birds of Texas. With a cheap pair of binoculars and Birds of Texas in hand, I was a birder! Ten years later, my husband Chris joined me and we've been birding together ever since.

Chris and I relocated to Alpine in 2008 and to Fort Davis in 2010. I retired from Sul Ross State University in 2021 as University Registrar, concluding a career in higher education begun at UTPB thirty-two years prior. I have since returned to the role of Registrar part-time.

Chris and I are Texas Master Naturalists in the Tierra Grande Chapter, leading interpretive nature hikes and guided bird walks at the Davis Mountains State Park, and devoting time and resources to the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, the Big Bend chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas, the Davis Mountains Preserve (a Nature Conservancy property), the El Paso/Trans-Pecos Audubon Society, and the Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration. I look forward to adding the Texas Ornithological Society to this list as Director for Region 4!

#### Director at large- Lyn Thompson



I have been a member of TOS since 2001, attending my first meeting in Ft. Davis. I have been birding for 30 years, intrigued by the remarkable accomplishments of the late Ted Parker. For me, it was a "spark person," rather than a spark bird.

I curate the Comal Birds Facebook page, plan field trips for the 24-year old group, and facilitate the New Braunfels CBC. In 2021 I retired from the New Braunfels Public Library, working the last few years of my career as the assistant manager. When not birding, I am a member of the New Braunfels Cemetery Committee, researching and writing scripts for their annual cemetery "Soul Searching" tour.

# Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza



## 2022-2023 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Current HPAI Background Report Sick and Dead Poultry Disease Information Current Situation Press Releases Biosecurity Movement Regulations

### Current HPAI Background

- The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed several findings of the presence of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in wild waterfowl in the Atlantic flyways in January 2022. On February 8, 2022 APHIS confirmed H5N1 HPAI in a commercial turkey flock in Dubois County, Indiana. Since then it has been confirmed in multiple states and flock types.
- The first case of H5N1 in Texas was confirmed on April 2, 2022.
- According to the CDC, Recent Bird Flu Infections in U.S. Wild Birds and Poultry Pose a Low Risk to the Public.
- Federal and State partners work jointly on additional surveillance and testing in and nearby affected areas, following existing avian influenza response plans.

- The United States has the strongest AI surveillance program in the world, and USDA is working with its partners to actively look for the disease in poultry operations, live bird markets, and in migratory wild bird populations.
- Commercial poultry producers and backyard flock owners should continue to practice strict biosecurity; most importantly, prevent birds from exposure to wild waterfowl.
- USDA HPAI web page

### Disease Information

Avian Influenza (AI) is a flu virus that may cause illness in domestic poultry, fowl and birds. Migratory waterfowl are a natural reservoir for this disease.

There are many strains of the AI virus. Based on the severity of illness caused by the virus, these strains are put into two classifications, low pathogenic (LPAI) and highly pathogenic (HPAI). LPAI causes only minor illness and occurs naturally in migratory waterfowl. HPAI spreads rapidly and has a high death rate in birds.

### Positive Cases of HPAI in Texas

County & Flock #	Date Confirmed Positive	Type of Operation	Flock Inventory	Status
Hale 01	3/24/2023*	Backyard, non-commercial flock (non-poultry)	20	Under Quarantine
Lampasas 01	1/18/2023*	Backyard, non-commercial flock (poultry)	248	Under Quarantine
Denton 01	12/3/2022*	Backyard, non-commercial flock (non-poultry)	105	Released
Rockwall 01	10/19/2022*	Backyard, non-commercial flock (non-poultry)	46	Released
Dallas 01	9/24/2022*	Backyard, non-commercial flock (non-poultry)	230	Released
Erath 01	4/2/2022*	Commercial pheasant flock (poultry)	1,649	Released

\*Confirmed positive by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL).

### Current Statewide Situation

- 6 = Total affected premises
- 6 = Total affected counties

### Definitions

- Poultry: All birds reared or kept in captivity to produce any commercial animal products or for breeding for this purpose, fighting cocks used for any

purpose, and all birds used for restocking supplies of game or for breeding for this purpose, until they are released from captivity.

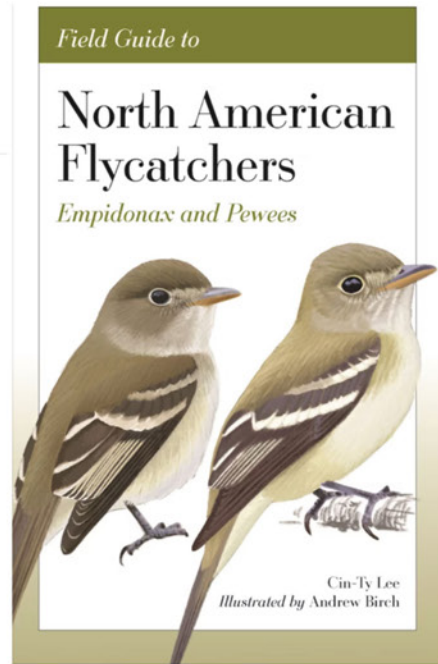
- Non-Poultry: Birds that are kept in a single household, the products of which are used within the same household exclusively, are not considered poultry, if they have no direct or indirect contact with poultry or poultry facilities.

Princeton Nature

# Field Guide to North American Flycatchers: *Empidonax and Pewees*

Cin-Ty Lee and Andrew Birch

A richly illustrated, portable field guide to flycatcher  
identification



The identification of *Empidonax* flycatchers and pewees can be a daunting challenge for even the most seasoned birder. *Field Guide to North American Flycatchers* takes bird identification to an entirely new level by training readers to observe subtle differences in structure, color patterns, and vocalizations before delving into the finer details of a particular species. Because the plumages of flycatchers are so similar, this one-of-a-kind guide uses illustrations that highlight slight variances among species that photos often miss. One of the last frontiers of bird identification is now accessible to everyone—once one knows what to look for.

- Uses a holistic approach that makes flycatcher identification possible even for beginners
- Features a wealth of beautiful illustrations that depict every species in North America
- Shows how to observe subtle differences in structure, plumage contrasts, and vocalizations, which together create a distinctive overall impression of the bird
- Includes detailed audio spectrograms and seasonal distribution maps for each species
- Shares invaluable tips for successful identification in all kinds of field settings
- Its compact size and field-friendly layout make it the ideal travel companion for any birder

## Paperback

Price: \$19.95 / £14.99

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55 color + b/w illus. 19 maps. 53

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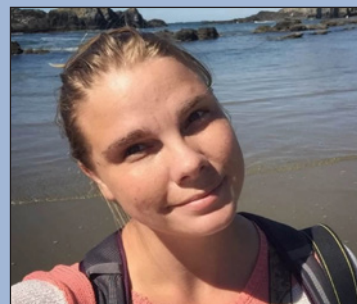
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Kelley Miller

Nancy Price (non-member)

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Shannon Davies

Stanley Casto

*Publications in honor of Kent Rylander*

### **SANCTUARY FUND**

Kris Kalapala

Sarah Ecker

*In honor of Lynette & Harvey Laas and Sabine Woods*

Frank & Margaret Farese

*To assist with the development of additional 14 acres at Sabine Woods Sanctuary*

Hans & Louise Liao

Nancy Price  
*Sabine Woods*

### **NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

Sharon Lane

David Booth

Kris Kalapala

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