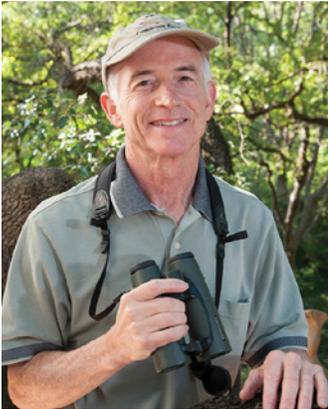


President's Message



Byron Stone TOS President.

I'm writing this less than a week after the horrific massacre of innocent children and teachers in Uvalde. No matter where you are in Texas, you have been touched in some way by this tragedy. I have called the offices of my elected officials to urge them to pass legislation to minimize the risk that tragedies like this recur. Let's all work together to make our public places safer.

I want to thank Christine Turnbull for her recent stint as TOS president. She helped us get through the last two years, and guided us to our first in-person meeting since the start of the pandemic. Speaking of which, it was good to see so many of you at the Lake Jackson meeting. It was great to be able to get together again with other birders to make and share memories. The meetings were fun, the talks were great and the birds were fantastic. And the meeting fees and the auction of the late Dennis Shelpner's paintings raised a significant amount of funds for TOS and for our co-hosts, GCBO (Gulf Coast Bird Observatory). My personal birding highlights were the cooperative male Cape May Warbler at Quintana sanctuary (if you knew exactly where to look) and getting to see Fulvous Whistling Ducks daily.

Unfortunately, Christine was ill and was unable to attend the Lake Jackson meeting which she and others worked so hard to bring to fruition. One reason I accepted the nomination (again) for TOS President was concern that Christine might not survive another year of such hard work. Take a break, Christine, you deserve it!

Another reason I accepted the nomination was because I want to help the board hire permanent help, like an executive director for TOS. We have a wonderful organization with great members and a hard-working board, but I think TOS has become too complex to continue successfully as an all-volunteer organization. We have publications, sanctuaries, and meetings, and we would like to do even more. I believe that the only statewide organization devoted solely to the observation, study and conservation of birds deserves professional, full-time help.

I hope you have a safe, productive, birdy summer. We have good things planned for the next year, including a winter meeting in January in Abilene, and hopefully the Alaska trip again next summer (full with a wait list), and maybe even some new trips (keep your membership active and check your inbox regularly). Your board will be meeting this summer to conduct TOS business, and to begin the process of finding and

hiring permanent, professional assistance to help successfully guide TOS into the future.

Good birding ya'll,

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

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

Texas Bird Records Committee

The TBRC is excited to announce the addition of Bat Falcon to the state list, which now stands at 660 species. Initially discovered by Rebecca Gelernter on December 8th, 2021 at Santa Ana NWR, this bird was not refound again until December 18th during the Christmas Bird Count there. It wasn't always easy to see but this Bat Falcon was viewed on a daily basis from that point and eventually came to be semi-reliable on telephone posts just around the entrance to the refuge. Last seen on March 10th, 2022, as an ABA area first it was perhaps one of the most seen rarities ever in Texas, with almost 1800 eBird reports of it during its three month stay.



Bat Falcon. Photo Sheridan Coffey

A pair of Harlequin Ducks discovered by Tripp Davenport at the Port Aransas jetty on February 19th, 2022 were a highly prized rarity. Only the 3rd documented record for Texas (pending acceptance), this pair was quite elusive at times but rather accommodating when present during its month+ visit (last seen March 23rd).



Harlequin Ducks. Photo Eric Carpenter

Continued on page 2

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, 2021. The MAJOR highlight of this batch is the addition of Scaly-breasted Munia (established exotic), Red-vented Bulbul (established exotic) and Bat Falcon, bringing the state list to 660. A special thank-you to Mike Austin, David Bradford and Stephan Lorenz for preparing lengthy submissions for both the munia and bulbul.

Accepted (31):

2022-06 – Brant (1) 27 Dec 2021, Lubbock, Lubbock County

2021-99 – American Flamingo (1) 16 Sep 2021, South Padre Is., Willacy County

2021-106 – American Flamingo (1) 10-24 Oct 2021, west side of Laguna Atascosa NWR, Cameron County

2022-12 – American Flamingo (1) 17-21 Nov 2021, Norias Division, King Ranch, Kenedy County

2021-82 – Costa's Hummingbird (1) 7 Jul – 17 Sep 2021, west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County

2021-93 – Curlew Sandpiper (1) 22 Aug 2021, Hagerman NWR, Grayson County

2021-101 – Red Phalarope (1) 22 Sep – 2 Oct 2021, Horizon City, El Paso County

2022-08 – Red Phalarope (1) 5 Nov 2021, Richland Creek WMA, Freestone County

2021-92 – Long-tailed Jaeger (1) 23 Aug 2021, San Jose Is., Aransas County

2022-07 – Short-billed Gull (1) 12 Dec 2021, White Rock Lake, Dallas County

2021-103 – Arctic Tern (1) 5 Oct 2021, South Padre Is., Cameron County

2021-87 – Leach's Storm-Petrel (1) 22 Jul 2021, offshore, 40 miles southeast of Port Aransas, Nueces County

2022-26 – Leach's Storm-Petrel (2) 14 Aug 2021, offshore from South Padre Is., Cameron County

2021-108 – Great Shearwater (1) 6 Nov 2021, ~140 miles east of South Padre Is., Cameron County

2021-119 – Manx Shearwater (1) 29 Aug 2021, Mustang Is., Nueces County

2022-21 – Red-footed Booby (1) 25 Jul 2020, 148 miles southeast (offshore) from the Brazos River mouth, Brazoria County

2021-110 – Red-footed Booby (1) 17 Nov 2021, Leonabelle Turnbull Birding Center, Port Aransas, Nueces County

2022-14 – Short-tailed Hawk (1) 24 Jun 2021, Chisos Mtns., BBNP, Brewster County

2021-96 – Short-tailed Hawk (1) 4 Sep 2021, Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley SP, Hidalgo County

2022-02 – Snowy Owl (1) 11 Dec 2021, south of Spearman, Hansford County

2021-117 – Bat Falcon (1) 8 Dec 2021 – 10 Mar 2022, Santa Ana NWR, Hidalgo County

2021-105 – Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (1) 7-18 Oct 2021, Sabine Woods, Jefferson County

2021-95 – Piratic Flycatcher (1) 29 Aug 2021, Resaca de la Palma SP, Cameron County

2021-88 – Thick-billed Kingbird (1) 28 Jul 2021, Terlingua, Brewster County

2021-104 – Fork-tailed Flycatcher (1) 4 Oct 2021, South Padre Is., Cameron County

2021-114 – Fork-tailed Flycatcher (1) 14 Nov – 18 Dec 2021, San Benito Wetlands, Cameron County

2021-120 – Red-vented Bulbul – established exotic, Houston area, Harris County

2022-10 – Rufous-backed Robin (1) 10 Oct 2021, El Paso, El Paso County

2022-09 – Varied Thrush (1) 3-4 Nov 2021, Pine Springs, GMNP, Culberson County

2021-121 – Scaly-breasted Munia – established exotic, Houston area, Harris and Fort Bend Counties

2021-118 – Dark-eyed (White-winged) Junco (1) 9-11 Dec 2021, west of Fort Davis, Jeff Davis County

Not Accepted (8):

2021-81 – Limpkin (1) 3 Jul 2021, The Woodlands, Montgomery County

2022-25 – Leach's Storm-Petrel (1) 26 Jul 2021, offshore from Port Aransas, Nueces County

2021-97 – Red-footed Booby (1) 5 Sep 2021, 142 miles south-southeast of Matagorda Island, Matagorda County

2021-98 – Short-tailed Hawk (1) 14 Sep 2021, Hazel Bazemore Park, Calallen, Nueces County

2021-67 – Fork-tailed Flycatcher (1) 14 Apr 2021, Crystal Beach, Galveston County

2021-57 – Pacific-slope Flycatcher (1) 27 Sep 2020, Brazos Bend SP, Fort Bend County

2022-11 – Pacific-slope Flycatcher (1) 19 Sep 2021, Sabine Woods, Jefferson County

2022-13 – Tamaulipas Crow (1) 27 Oct 2021, Brownsville Landfill, Cameron 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.

A SPRING MESSAGE FROM THE TOS MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

May 2022

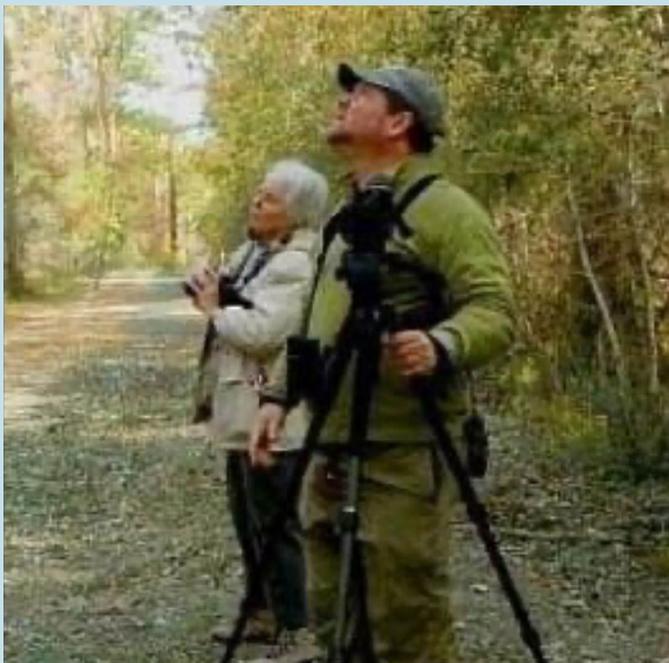
Remembering Steve Gross

Susan Foster, TOS Region 7 Director

With the help of friend Dave Dolan, TOS recently completed the Steve Gross Memorial at the TOS Hooks Woods Sanctuary in memory of our late past-president. I was asked to write this article as Steve was my friend and mentor, but that's just not true. Jim Hailey was my mentor; Steve Gross was my guru.



Steve and I traveled throughout Texas and Idaho together birding, eating, and enjoying fine wine. Steve was an excellent birder, but his first love was fly fishing. He was also a wine connoisseur and appreciated fine dining (as well as not-so-fine dining). He had so many interests and was always expanding his knowledge about so many things. Steve was a true Renaissance man.



Steve encouraged me to set birding goals. At the end of 2012 Steve asked me what my birding goal would be for 2013. I replied that I wanted to be number one for the ABA area. Though I did not end up first that year, I did complete the Bird-a-Day challenge and was one of only four people to finish out of approximately 10,000 who started out in January. Steve, Teri Zambon and Judy Kestner all stressed out about that one!

Sadly Steve died from complications of the flu in October of 2013. Attending the memorial in January 2014 was eye-opening. Steve had a knack for making all his friends think that they were special and, you know what? We all were.

With Steve's passing, we lost a fabulous birder, teacher, fly-fisherman, connoisseur of wine, food, travel and literature, but most importantly we lost a good friend and mentor.

Rest in peace, Steve. I'm glad to have known you.



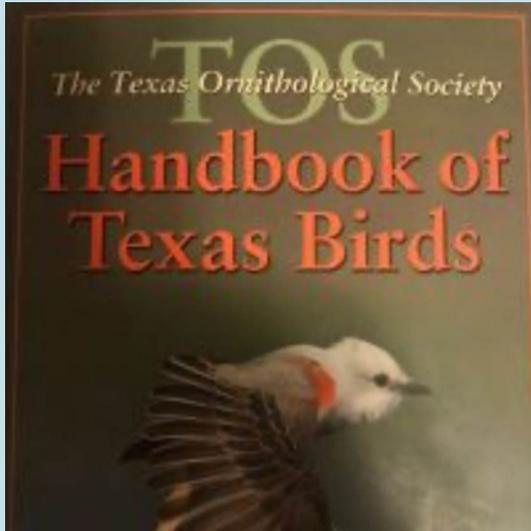
Learn Our History!

Frances Cerbins, Vice-president, TOS Director-at-Large

Under the "About Us" tab on the Texas Ornithological Society (TOS) website, the box at the top states that TOS was founded in, 1953. Its purpose is "to promote the discovery and dissemination of knowledge of birds; to encourage specifically the observation, study and conservation of Birds in Texas; to encourage the formation of local birding clubs; and to stimulate cooperation among professional ornithologists." We have been doing all of these for 69 years!

An article by Stanley D. Casto, The History of TOS – 1953-1963, is a wonderful resource describing how we got started and our first 10 years. The article is peppered with familiar names of the people who built TOS: Charles

H. McNeese, Carrie Holcomb, Connie Hagar, Armand Yramategui, Edgar Kincaid (the Father of Texas Birding), and many more. It provides insight into how our Scissor-tailed Flycatcher emblem was created, our involvement with conservation issues around Texas, and our many field trips in the early days.



Another great resource about the history of TOS is the “Handbook of Texas Birds” by Mark W. Lockwood and Brush Freeman. The 2004 edition’s introduction describes the development of the Texas Bird Checklists from John K. Strecker up through 1974, when Keith Arnold and Ed Kutac created the first Check-List of Texas Birds. This list was based on the work of the Texas Bird Records Committee (TRBC) formed in 1972 as a part of TOS. The lists have been re-published often through the years.

We are continuing this history with research, conservation advocacy, field trips, meetings, and classes. TOS has a rich history as a major conservation organization. We have been acquiring properties around Texas and preserving bird habitat. Our sanctuaries include:

- Sabine Woods in Jefferson County first purchased in 1989
- Crawford Sanctuary in High Island gifted to TOS in 1997
- Magic Ridge in Calhoun County with first purchase of lots in 2000 and continuing to the present
- Hooks Woods in High Island gifted in 2001
- Schroeder Island in Victoria County gifted in 2003. (This sanctuary is not open to the public.)

Hope you’ll join us to continue making Texas birding history!

Meet the Texas Ornithological Society’s 2022 Board of Directors

Shelia Hargis, TOS Past President, Sanctuaries Chair

Every year, a new Board is seated at the TOS spring meeting with some members retiring and new members

joining. At this year’s spring Board meeting, Shelia Hargis retired, and Romey Swanson joined the Board. Also at this meeting, officers were elected by the Board for the following year.

Here are your Board members and officers.

Byron Stone, President, At-Large Position

Frances Cerbins, Vice President, At-Large Position

John Berner, Treasurer, Region 1 Director (Panhandle)

Susan Foster, Secretary, Region 7 Director (Brushlands)

Christine Turnbull, Past President, Region 5 Director (Edwards Plateau)

Gailon Brehm, Region 2 Director (North Central)

Laura Wilson, Region 3 Director (Pineywoods)

D. D. Currie, Region 4 Director (Trans-Pecos)

Randy Pinkston, Region 6 Director (Central Prairie)

Kendra Kocab, Region 8 Director (Coastal Prairie)

Romey Swanson, At-Large Position

Clay Taylor, At-Large Position

You can find this information along with contact information on our website in the “About TOS” section, <https://texasbirds.org/aboutTOS.php>. There are also maps showing each region on the Board of Directors page.

Thank you to all for your service - past, present and future!

Member Survey Results.

Judy Kestner, TOS Membership Secretary

Earlier this year the Membership Committee sent a link to a Google survey to get your point of view on our organization. The results were interesting in that they reflected much of what the conversation has been during our own planning sessions.

The top five reasons cited for belonging to TOS were the **social aspects** (“feeling of community”), **conservation** (“Financial support of conservation efforts, land acquisition and sanctuaries”), **publications** (“I read and enjoy all of them for different reasons. Do I really have to choose?”), and most popular was, of course, our **meetings and trips** (“Routine, organized field trips with expert birders for confirmation of species seen”).

We are also most grateful for all the additional suggestions of what you, our TOS membership, would like to see on the menu. These ideas include youth activities, classes for new birders, online resources such as YouTube videos or webinars for members only, and regional bird walks.

We did have a comment that read, “It seems an organization geared to retirees,” and yes we are well aware of the snow on the roof, so to speak. One of our goals is to increase membership among college students and young adults, and Laura Wilson has been a big contributor in that area. We hope to create a more substantive program for these folks and get them involved in planning and carrying out activities.

With the abatement of the pandemic, and our very successful and enjoyable Lake Jackson meeting under our belt, these activities will only increase and improve.

Some How-tos from TOS Membership Services

Judy Kestner, TOS Membership Secretary

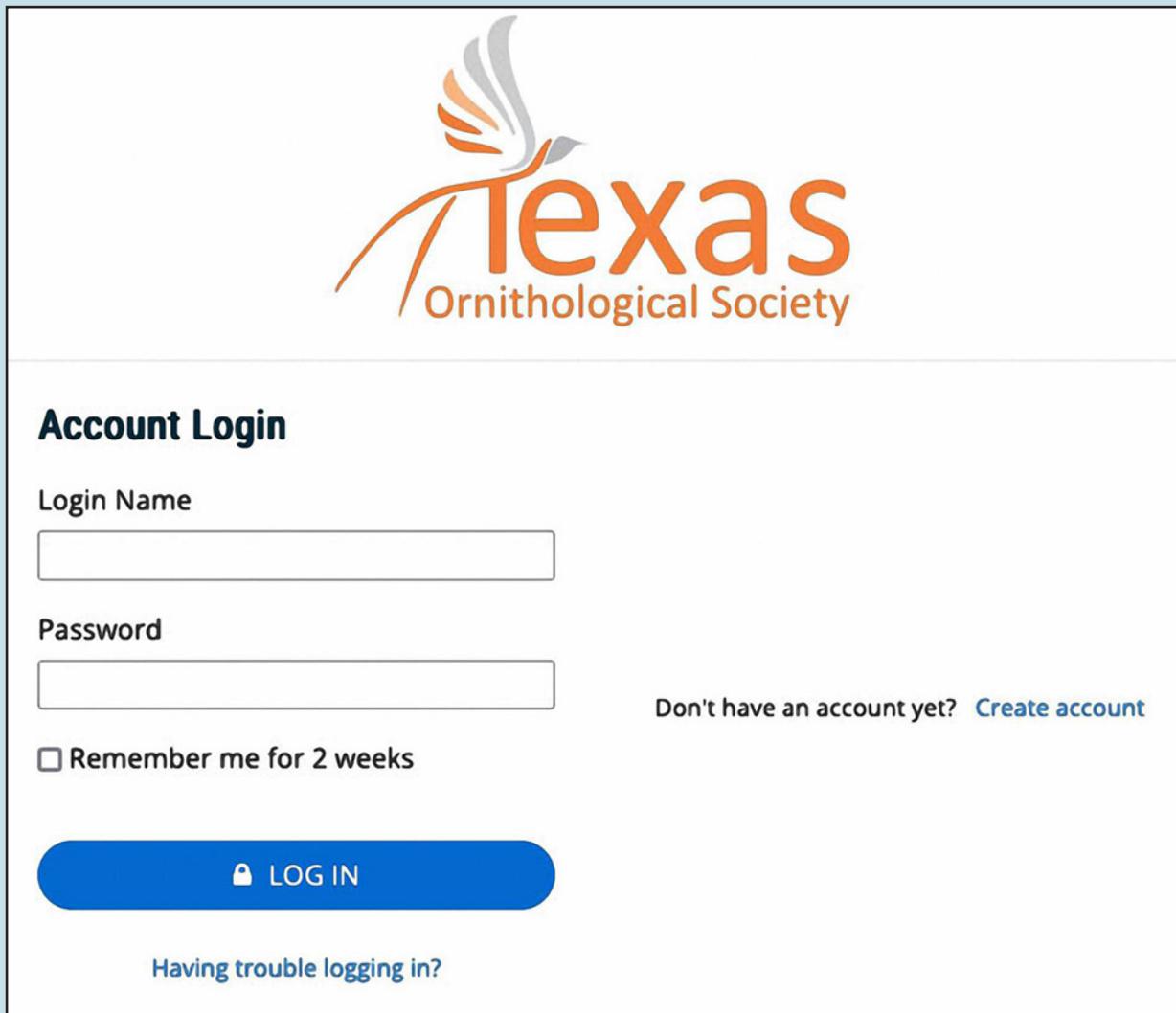
If you haven't logged on to your TOS account recently, or if you just log on to renew once a year, you may not be familiar with the ins and outs of the website.

Everyone who interacts with our website has an account created for them either when they make their first dues payment, register for an event, make a donation, or even

when they enter contact information after scanning the QR code at one of our sanctuaries. Accounts are accessed via our website, www.texasbirds.org, under the Member Information tab, whether the individual is an actual paid member or not.

Your email address links you to your account, but frequently a TOS member will inadvertently create a second account when logging in, especially if the log-in credentials have been lost or forgotten.

To avoid this, simply click "Having trouble logging in?" to generate a temporary password. See the screenshot below, under the blue Log In button.



Once your account home page opens, you can select an action from the drop-down menu. Among these are:

- Editing your contact information
- Viewing our member directory
- Shopping in our store
- Registering for an upcoming event
- Updating your profile (including adding a photo of yourself), and lots more.

As always, I am available to help with any issues. Just email tosmember@yahoo.com or call 361-701-1962.

Thanks to several TOS members who sent corrections to the recent Membership Committee Communication:

- Dave Dolan was Steve Gross' good friend.
- Magic Ridge Sanctuary is in Calhoun County.

Regional Reports

Region 1—Panhandle

—John Berner

Region 2—North Central Texas

For us in North Central Texas, April and May songbird migration was slow this year, notable mostly for strong south winds and relatively few sightings. Radar surveys showed many, many birds migrating through the area, but they must not have stopped for long. On the other hand—how about those Limpkins?

In May, many North Texas birders got to see a Limpkin in Denton County near Lake Lewisville. This bird was reported to be eating small snails and freshwater mussels. This was a surprise to us, and we were surprised again to hear of a Limpkin sighting near Austin.

So, let me speculate on the spread of this species. Limpkins have long been sighted in Florida as have been apple snails, which they eat. And now, Limpkins are continually sighted in wetlands to the east and west of Houston. In my recent visit to Brazos Bend State Park, I photographed apple snail shells, apple snail egg masses, and Limpkins in close proximity, see below. The spread of these two species seems to be a correlate. Vagrant Limpkins can survive on other mollusks, but those big snails seem to be their preference. So why the population spread now? My speculation, not a scientific study, is that over the last 50 to 80 years, people have established large numbers of permanent lakes, providing a year-round habitat for freshwater mollusks that was not present previously. Over time, species have moved in to take advantage.

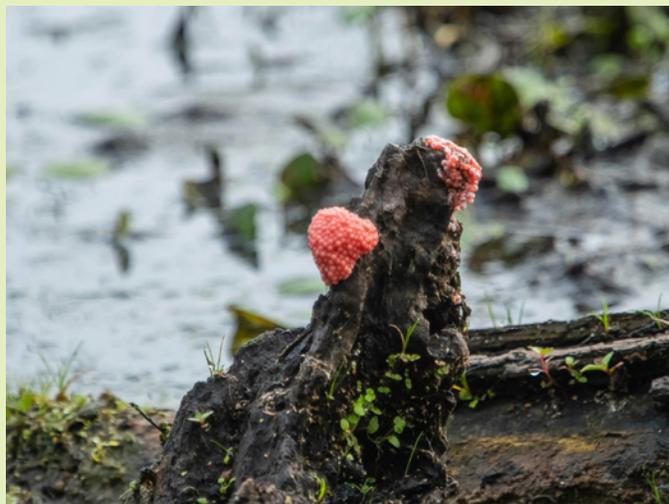
Well, food for thought, anyway!



Limpkin at Brazos Bend State Park, May 2022



Empty Apple Snail Shells



Orange Apple Snail Egg Masses

Thanks for reading and good birding,

—Galon Brehm

Region 3—East Texas Timberlands (Pineywoods)

—Laura Wilson

Region 4—Trans-Pecos

The winter and spring were extremely dry. Due to extreme drought conditions, our yard in Fort Davis was visited by numerous Western Tanager, Black-headed Grosbeaks, Scott's Orioles, and Lazuli Buntings. The big attraction was water and suet. Also added two new yard birds this spring: Common Black Hawk and MacGillivray's Warbler. Have had five species of hummingbirds so far this spring/summer season: Anna's, Black-chinned, Broad-tailed, Ruby-throated, and Lucifer. First time a Lucifer pair has continued in the yard beyond a couple of days. Hopefully, they are nesting somewhere on our property. Participated in

Regional Reports (continued)

the Great Texas Birding Classic, dispersed flock category. Racked up 112 species over a 19 hour period for the Trans Pecos area.

—DD Currie

Region 5—Edwards Plateau Report

—Christine Turnbull

Region 6—Central Prairie

Persistent drought is generally considered a bad thing, and indeed it is for many reasons. However, like other bad things there can be a silver lining depending on your perspective. As an avid observer of shorebird migration, I'm thrilled by drought and desiccating reservoirs as prime shorebird habitat enlarges and improves daily. Drought is okay by me, as certainly it was this spring for thousands of northbound shorebird migrants moving through central Texas. Bell County observers tallied an amazing 34 species of shorebirds this spring, an impressive feat for inland locations that are nearly 200 miles from the coast! Included among them were Piping Plover, Whimbrels, Marbled Godwits, Ruddy Turnstones, lots of Sanderlings, lots of Buff-breasted Sandpipers, and Red-necked Phalarope. Desiccating shorelines at Stillhouse Hollow and Belton lakes were where much of this action occurred. Reported shorebird numbers were flagged by our eBird filter almost daily in mid- to late May, especially involving Am golden-plover, Semipalmated Plover, Baird's and White-rumped Sandpipers, and Lesser Yellowlegs. Yes, 2022 was one heck of a good spring for shorebird migration in Bell County, and I suspect observers in adjacent counties with water impoundments would agree.



Red-necked Phalarope, adult female, photo by Randy Pinkston.

The highlight of the spring in Williamson County was a one-day wonder Brown Booby at Granger Lake in mid-March and a different (or possibly the same bird) found on Lake Georgetown in early May and staying through the end of the season.



Williamson County Brown Booby, photo by Tim Fennell.

Travis County observers enjoyed remarkable numbers of several uncommon to rare spring warblers, including Blue-winged, Kentucky, and Cerulean Warblers. Well-documented Worm-eating Warblers appeared in Travis and Bell counties.



Bell County Worm-eating Warbler, photo by Charlie Plimpton.

All four *Catharus* thrushes appeared in above-average numbers in both Travis and Williamson counties.

A remarkably cooperative and mostly unconcealed Purple Gallinule spent several days in late April at Temple Lions Park while another one appeared in late May at Devine Lake in Williamson County.

Regional Reports (continued)



Temple Purple Gallinule, photo by Doug Orama.

The Great Limpkin Range Expansion began last year (2021) but one at the Barton Creek Watershed in Travis County in late May 2022 marked the species' inaugural appearance in Region 6. This bird was enjoyed by many local birders.



Travis County Limpkin, photo by Lance Felber.

—Randy Pinkston

Region 7—Rio Grande Brushlands

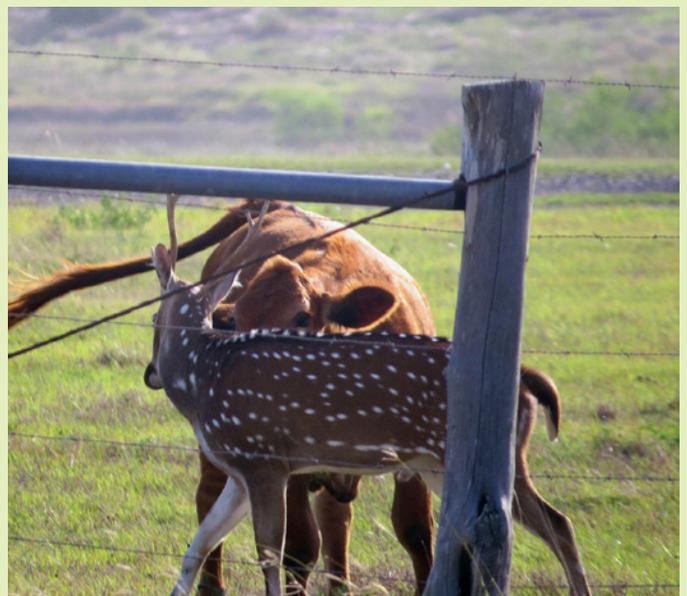
The Birds of Summer

Now that spring migration has waned, it is time for the Breeding Bird Survey. The BBS began in 1966 to track the status and trends of North American bird populations. This

year I took over the Bayside BBS from Bron Rorex. This route had bays and lots of agricultural land. During a BBS, you start counting all birds seen and heard exactly one half hour before sunrise. The route runs 25 miles, with three minute bird surveys performed every half mile. I convinced my non-birder husband to drive me and take care of the logistics and timer. My first stop began near Swan Lake. As it was dark at this stop, I had to rely on hearing birds to count them. At this stop I had Common Nighthawks, Black-necked Stilts, and Purple Martins. As the route went on, I encountered other birds that breed in this area including Brown-crested Flycatchers, Eastern Meadowlarks, terns, herons, and many singing Painted Buntings. Most birds counted were both seen and heard. This Axis deer was a surprise.



Axis Deer



Axis Deer

If a Breeding Bird Survey sounds like something you'd enjoy, you can visit the BBS website for more information

and to see what routes are available. You could also talk to the Texas coordinator, Brent Ortego, and he can answer your questions.

Other than breeding bird surveys, nesting birds can be found everywhere. In Rockport, where I live, Least Terns and Wilson's Plovers have been nesting in a field every year for decades. Black Skimmers nest in a field on Rockport Beach, which is closed to vehicles during breeding season. Not far from the beach is a rookery where you can find egrets and herons nesting.

Migration may be over, but there is still much bird life and action to enjoy.



Wilson's Plover



Wilson's Plovers



Least Tern



Least Tern



Black Skimmers



Great Egrets

—Susan Foster

Region 8—Central Prairie

Spring migration in our region was a bit slow for most of the season. But birders are ever hopeful, and many checklists were logged from the coast. Despite only a few days with north winds, our region tallied 36 warbler species! Most notably, a two-day wonder Hermit Warbler was reported at the Surfside Bird & Butterfly Trail (Brazoria Co.). Other rare birds in migration included Black Whiskered Vireo (Jefferson Co.), Lazuli Bunting (Galveston Co.), and Varied Bunting (Brazoria Co.).

Spring is also the beginning of breeding season, and we had some special birds nesting (or potentially nesting) in our region. For the second year in a row, Whooping

Cranes nested in Texas (Jefferson Co.). Limpkins appear to have been successfully breeding here as well. At least 23 individuals were tallied one morning at Sheldon Lake State Park in Harris Co! They are also still being seen in Fort Bend Co. at Brazos Bend State Park and at a new location, Cullinan Park. Finally, Cassin's Sparrows were observed singing and appearing to establish territories. They were reported in FIVE counties in our region: Wharton (first eBird record), Fort Bend (second eBird record), Austin (second eBird record), Colorado Co., and Waller Co.

—Kendra Kocab, Director

Lytle Houston Blankenship

March 1, 1927 – May 24, 2022



Photo by Susan Schaezler

Lytle H. Blankenship passed away peacefully at home on May 24, 2022. He was born on March 1, 1927 in Campbellton, Texas to Sidney and Amanda Blankenship. He was predeceased by his parents, 15 brothers and sisters, and one son Kerry Jon Blankenship.

He is survived by his wife Margaret (Luecke) Blankenship and son Terry Blankenship and his wife Ann, of Sinton, Jerry Alan Blankenship and wife Etta, of Ingram, and Sheri Ann Steward and husband Brett, of Denton; 8 grandchildren, Benjamin Blankenship, Matthew Blankenship, Jacob Blankenship, Lindsey Monroe, Katie Blankenship, Jeremy Steward, Micaela Steward, and Jared Steward.

Lytle graduated from Pleasanton, Texas and joined the Navy at the end of World War II. Upon receiving an honorable discharge, he returned to Campbellton and then hitchhiked to College Station with a brother and friend. He graduated from Texas A&M College in 1950 with a B.S. in

Wildlife Management. He received a Master of Science from University of Minnesota and then went to Michigan State University to complete his Ph.D. in Wildlife Management.

Lytle was fortunate to have traveled around the world to North America, South America, Southeast Asia, the Caribbean, and Africa. He received an opportunity to work in Kenya in 1969 and moved the family to Nairobi, Kenya. He worked there for 3 years and indicated in his book that those were some of the most rewarding years of wildlife research.

He was a member of The Wildlife Society and served as a Section Representative and President from 1986-1988. He was an avid birder and served as the Region V Director for the Texas Ornithological Society. He was also a member of the Lions Club International and served as District Governor in 1981 and was instrumental in establishing the Lions Sight and Research Foundation.

LAKE JACKSON MEETING HIGHLIGHTS.....

“The Spring Meeting was a favorite for me. The birds were a bit slow, as many had moved on with a front earlier in the week. But the birds were only a part of the success of this meeting. Getting to be back together was the best part. Seeing so many of my bird buddies in one place was great after 2 long years. We enjoyed the speakers (so much to learn!), a nice banquet, and honoring Dennis. We got our adrenaline pumping at the live auction of some of Dennis’ artwork, it was so fun to watch people bidding on their favorites, friends against friends fighting for the paintings of a dear friend. And the money raised supported TOS and GCBO, organizations that Dennis loved. We went on fun trips with birds, bugs, hogs, frogs, and a zillion gators. We stopped and smelled the wildflowers. We enjoyed some snacks and fizzy drinks. We climbed trees. We chatted and caught up. But we did it together! Covid affected each of us differently, but we were all affected. Now it feels like we are seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, and it’s not a train! It’s our friends out birding together.” Crystal Ledezma



Ardell Winters enjoying the Colorado County Century Club field trip



Keynote speaker, Tiffany Kersten, talking about her Big Year



Ken Hartman led Sunday’s Limpkin Lunacy trip to Brazos Bend SP



Judy Kestner continuing to work during Saturday’s field trip



Randy Pinkston had the winning bid for this Dennis Shepler original during the live auction



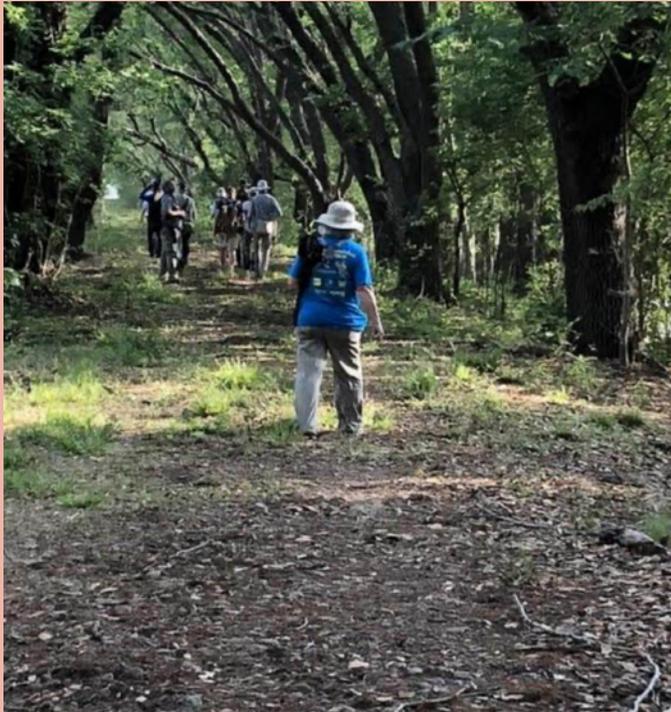
Saturday’s trip to the JBH Burr property led by Romey Swanson



Tiffany Kersten talking about her Big Year



JBH Burr property field trip



Beautiful walk at the JBH Burr property



Century Club pin participants Tad Finnell, Sue Heath, and Romey Swanson



Century Club pin recipient, Sue Heath



JBH Burr property field trip



Tim Young enjoying the Century Club trip to Colorado County



Left to Right Century Club pin recipients Wyatt Engelhoﬀ, Gailon Brehm, Justin Bosler, Romey Swanson, Lynn Thompson, Jimma Byrd, Kendra Kocab, and Barbara Pankratz



Denise Stephens and Crystal Ledezma



Auction of Dennis Shepler paintings



Denise Stephens at Galveston Island State Park



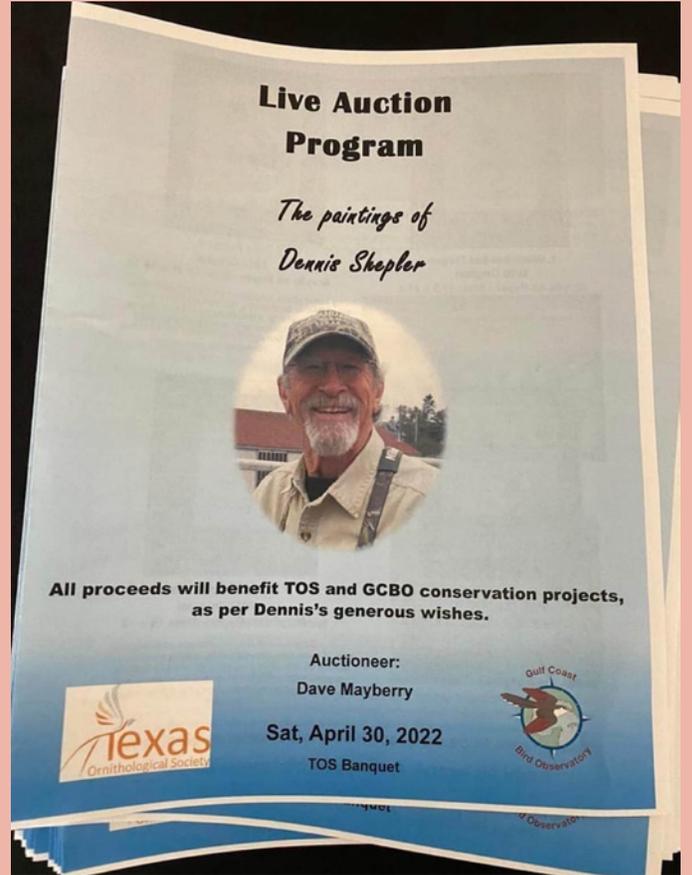
Denise Stephens, Crystal Ledezma, Erin and Romey Swanson, and Martin Hagne at the banquet.



Sue Heath, speaker



Keynote speaker Tiffany Kersten



Live Auction Program.



From the Richard Gibbons-led field trip on Sunday. This Clapper Rail seemed to want us to leave!



Photos of Barbara Pankratz-led trip on the first day: lunch break & birding at Hanson Riverside County Park. Big tree photo of our leaders (Frank brightened the faces in one version) Barbara, Crystal L & Beth McB. Lots of fun & learned a lot!



Fred Collins speaking about his late buddy Dennis Shepler



Alligator at Brazoria NWR



Trip 12 was to The Nature Conservancies Mad Island Marsh Preserve trip leader was Robyn Savage. Photos Lila Thesis



Walking in the green tunnel at the Harrison Foundation's Burr Property in Wharton Co. Photos Judy Kestner



Make Me Smile Award

- The Nine Inch Rails
- Goose Springsteen & the Geese Street Band
- Unladen Swallows
- Star Warblers (May the Focus be with You)
- TOS Millennium Falcons
- TOS Fire-Quackers
- Trill Seekers



Most Valuable Birder

9 Teams!

Martha
McLeod



Roughwings – Central Coast

- 3rd Place: 57 species
- **TOS Purple Peregrines**, Texas Ornithological Society
- 2nd Place: 76 species
- **Mile 533 Marine Ways Pirate Pintails**, 533 Marine Ways



Roughwings – Central Coast

- 1st Place: TIE!
- 102 species
- **TOS Competitive Coastal Coots**, Texas Ornithological Society
- **Lynch Maritime Fabulous Fulton Falcons**, Lynch Maritime



Roughwings – Lower Coast

- 3rd Place: 41 species
- **TOS Millennium Falcons**, Texas Ornithological Society
- 2nd Place: 43 species
- **TOS Juvenile Cooing Cuckoo Birds**, Texas Ornithological Society
- 3rd Place: 48 species
- **TOS Jays**, Texas Ornithological Society



Roughwings – Upper Coast

- 1st Place: 67 species
- **TOS Happy Hawks Roughwings**, Texas Ornithological Society



Gliders – Central Texas Coast

- 2nd Place: 92 species
- **Brown Water Marine Maritime Mergansers, Brown Water Marine**
- 1st Place: 102 species
- **TOS Seaworthy Senior Soras, Texas Ornithological Society**



Gliders – Heart of Texas East

- 3rd Place: 19 species
- **TOS Cuckoos and Allies, Texas Ornithological Society**
- 2nd Place: 51 species
- **Linam's Legacy**
- 1st Place: 97 species
- **TOS "R" Us!, Texas Ornithological Society**



Human-Powered Tournament

- 2nd Place: 42 species
- **Algerita Roadrunners**
- 1st Place: 80 species
- **TOS Pirate Plovers,**
Texas Ornithological Society



Green Kingfisher chosen for new t-shirt.....



New TOS T-Shirt soon to be available.

TOSNEWS Staff

Jack Eitnear Editor

Judy Kestner Proofreader
Susan Foster Proofreader

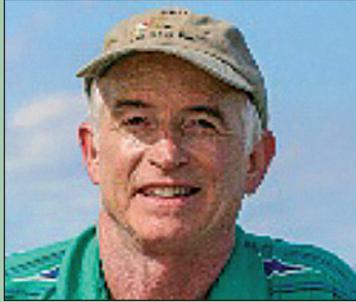
A special thank you to the Writers and Artists who contributed to this publication.

Printed by Sheridan PA

Typesetting by Phil Wolfe Graphic Design

Copyright ©2022 Texas Ornithological Society

Members of the TOS Board of Directors



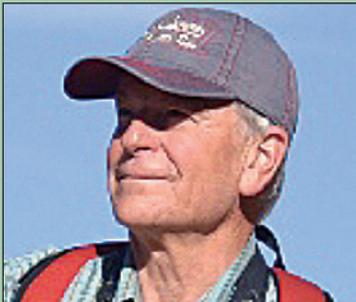
Byron Stone
Director at Large
Email: DrBirdie@aol.com



Frances Cerbins
Vice-President & Director at Large
Email: fcerbins@yahoo.com



John Berner
Treasurer & Region 1—Panhandle
Email: jcazberner@yahoo.com



Galon Brehm
Region 2—North Central Texas
Email: g-brehm@msn.com



Laura Wilson
Region 3—East Texas Timberlands
(Pineywoods)
Email: hummingbirdhill95@gmail.com



D.D. Currie
Region 4—Trans-Pecos
Email: ddbirder@gmail.com



Randy Pinkston
Region 6—Coastal Prairie
Email: drpinkston@sbcglobal.net



Susan Foster
Secretary & Region 7—Rio Grande
Brushlands
Email: idratherbebirding@gmail.com



Kendra Kocab
Region 8—Central Prairie
Email: kenner7683@gmail.com



Christine Turnbull
Past President & Region 5—
Edwards Plateau
Email: cbturnbull@hotmail.com

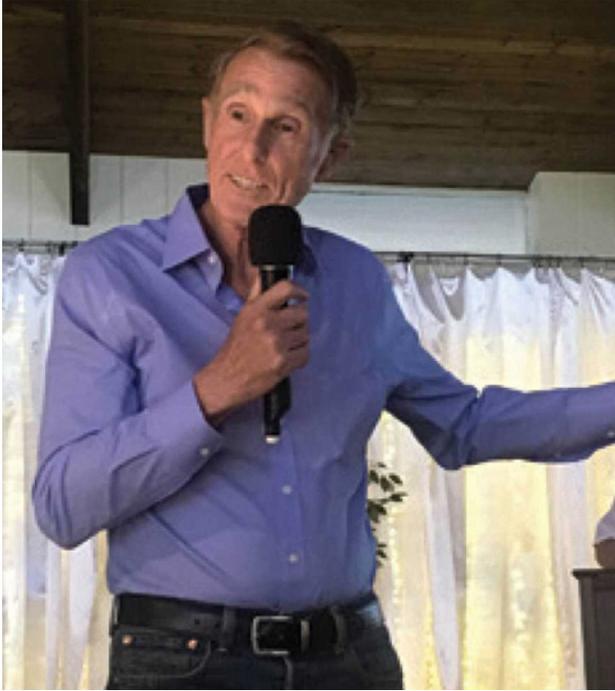


Romey Swanson
Director at Large
Email: romeyswanson@gmail.com



Clay Taylor
Director at Large
Email: clay.taylor@swarovskioptik.us

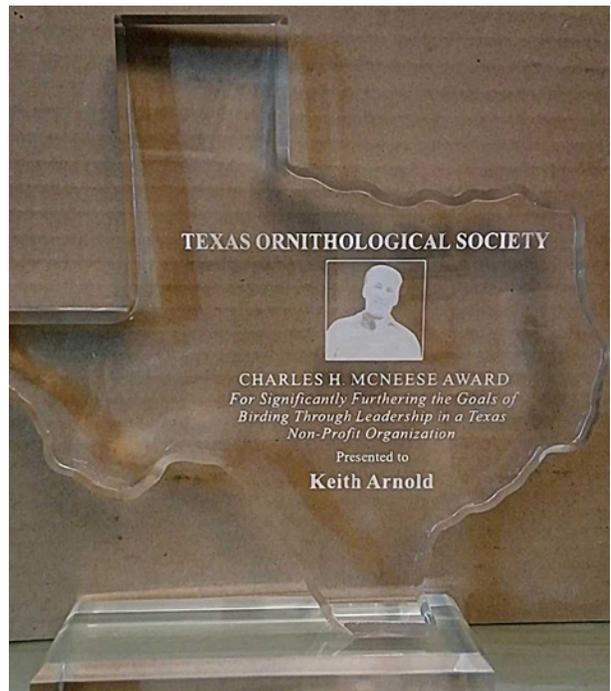
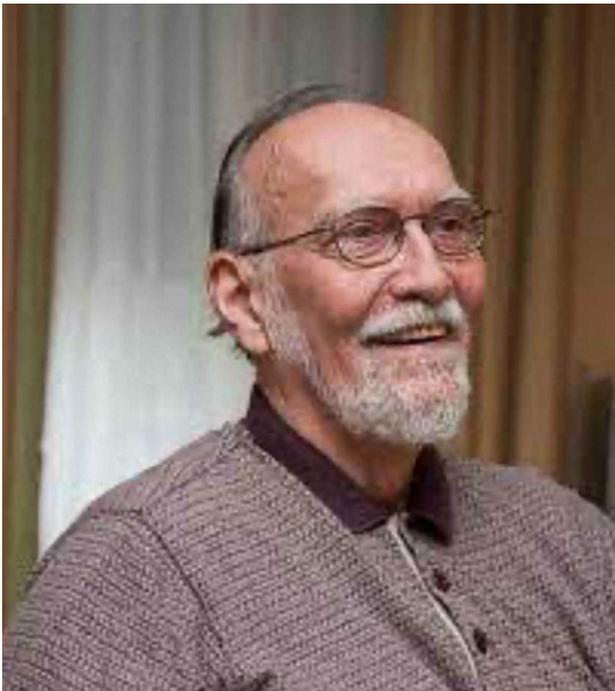
Congratulations 2022 TOS Award Recipients



Edgar B Kincaid, Jr. Award

Stanley D. Casto

For Outstanding Effort of Documenting the Status/Distribution of Texas Birds.



Charles H. McNeese Award

Keith Arnold

For Significantly Furthering the Goals of Birding Through Leadership in a Texas Non-Profit Organization.

DONATIONS

Summer/Fall 2022 newsletter

General Fund

Michelle Friesenhahn (non-member)
In memory of Russ Thompson

Kenneth Moore

Lisa Kilpela (non-member)

Denise Dengler

Cameron Johnson

Sanctuary Fund

Madeline Averett

Georgina Schwartz
Magic Ridge

Jesse Huth
Sabine Woods

Jeanne Kuehn

2021 New Life Members

Cin-Ty Lee

Christopher Holmes

Janey Woodley



* Stay at the world famous **Alamo Inn B&B** close to Santa Ana NWR

* Order optics, birding books, and gear with 10% discount and free packing & shipping for TOS members

We support TOS and Texas Birding
TOS Members 10% Discount Off Accommodation
Tel. (956) 782-9912
alamoinn@gmail.com
www.AlmoInnBnB.com

HummerBird Celebration.

www.rockporthummingbird.com



Bus and boat trips, guided field trips, lectures and programs,
self-guided Hummer home tours, vendor malls and more!

 [RockportFultonHummerBirdCelebration](https://www.facebook.com/RockportFultonHummerBirdCelebration)

1-800-242-0071




**Rockport
Fulton**

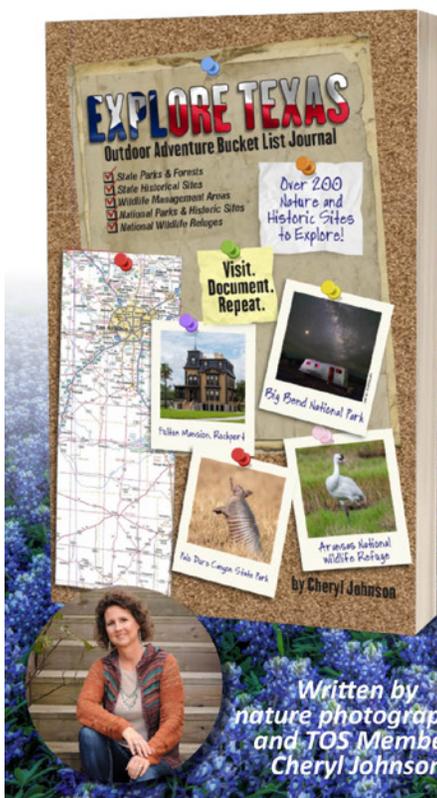
Charm of the Texas Coast

Photography by Juan Bahamon

Texas Sized Fun at Your Fingertips!

This comprehensive journal is designed to help you discover over 200 different locations and log your adventures in all of Texas's:

- Texas State Parks & Forests
- Texas Wildlife Management Areas
- Texas State Historic Sites
- National Parks, Forests, and Historic Sites
- National Wildlife Refuges



Written by
nature photographer
and TOS Member,
Cheryl Johnson



available at
amazon

Bring The Beauty of Nature To Your Home

Watercolor Nature Prints & Home Decor



These beautiful watercolors will add life and character to any room in your house or make the perfect gift for the nature lover in your life! Available as a matted prints, posters, canvases, pillows, totes, and more!

ORDER ONLINE TODAY
CherylJohnsonAuthor.com



YOUR NEXT VACATION, SIMPLIFIED.
STAY. PLAY. BIRD.



Texas.
Island Style.™
Port Aransas®
& MUSTANG ISLAND

WWW.PORTARANSAS.ORG | 800-45-COAST