

President's Message



Romey Swanson TOS President.

Dear TOS Friends,

Spring is finally here—and like many of you, I'm brimming with excitement for what this season brings. From the return of migratory songbirds to the thrill of the dawn chorus, it's a time of renewal, energy, and connection. I've also been enjoying this season from the ground up—literally—helping my team set up field monitoring sites for our ongoing research on secretive owls in the upper-

elevation mountains of far West Texas.

Speaking of topography—our upcoming Spring Meeting in Cedar Hill is shaping up to be a true celebration of bird conservation, community partnerships, and the growing reach of Texas birding. Cedar Hill, a Bird City Texas certified community, is leading by example when it comes to connecting people with nature—and we're proud to partner with them to host this gathering.

Our meeting demonstrates the power of collaboration. In addition to the incredible support from the City of Cedar Hill, we're grateful for the involvement of Audubon Texas, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, and the Dallas and Fort Worth Audubon Chapters. These partners represent a shared commitment to inclusive, impactful conservation.

A very special thank you to Katie Christman, Nature & Open Space Coordinator with the City of Cedar Hill. Katie has been instrumental in planning and welcoming TOS to her community. Her passion and professionalism as a birder and outdoors professional have helped make this event possible, and I can't say enough good things about working with her.

We also owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Christine Turnbull, whose leadership and dedication to organizing TOS meetings consistently go above and beyond. Christine shoulders an incredible amount of responsibility on behalf of TOS, doing so with cheer, grace, and an unshakably positive attitude. Alongside her planning committee, she has once again helped shape a gathering that reflects the best of our community.

If you're not yet familiar with Bird City Texas, I encourage you to explore [this TPWD resource](#). This statewide program recognizes communities like Cedar Hill that are committed to habitat stewardship, bird-friendly design, education, and eco-tourism—and it's precisely the kind of effort that aligns with TOS's evolving mission to expand our reach and deepen our relevance.

We're also honored to welcome Lisa Gonzalez, Executive Director of Audubon Texas and Vice President with National T.O.S. NEWS—Spring 2025

Audubon Society, as our keynote speaker for the Saturday night banquet. Her leadership and vision in conservation will inspire all of us to work to build a broader, stronger birding community.

As we look ahead, I'd also like to take a moment to reflect on the wonderful Winter Meeting in Beaumont. From the field trips exploring the biodiversity of the Golden Triangle to talks by inspiring speakers like Alexander Hoxie (a TOS research grant recipient) and Dania Sanchez, Vice President of the Golden Triangle Audubon Society, it was a weekend full of learning and camaraderie. I especially appreciated Dania's deep insight into the ecological and cultural richness of the Golden Triangle region.

This year, we'll also renew some of our most beloved traditions, including Century Club pin presentations and recognizing individuals who've gone above and beyond for birding and conservation in Texas. I'll admit, I'm still sitting around 30 counties on my list—but handing out those pins has reminded me how much joy and discovery awaits.

So, if you haven't registered for the Spring Meeting yet—what are you waiting for? Join us! Come bird, learn, connect, and help us celebrate the vibrant people and places that make birding in Texas so rewarding. I look forward to seeing you there.

With gratitude and excitement,

—Romey Swanson

President, Texas Ornithological Society
romey.TOS@gmail.com

Our TOS Booth at the Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival is a Real Hoot!

Thanks to Laura Wilson and Cathy Hines for helping spread the word.



Highlights of the Winter TOS Meeting.....



Some of the group looking at the Henslow's Sparrow at Big Thicket National Preserve. Photo Greg Reynolds



Roy E Larsen Sandyland Sanctuary. Shawn Benedict the preserve manager is giving us a layout and brief history of the sanctuary.



*(left) Lisa Schibley, keynote speaker . (right) 6. Susan Foster at registration table.
Photos Lisa Schibley*



Dania Sanchez, John Whittle, Greg Reynolds, and Art MacKinnon



Friday Speaker Alex Hoxie



Keynote Speaker Sam Wolfe



Planning Committee Chairwoman Christine Turnbull



Joni Mitchell Quote at Tyrrell Park-Jackie Girouard, Susan Foster, Julie Crum



President Romey Swanson, with TCC pin awardees Jim and Deb Hailey, Fred and Kay Zagst, and Tim Handren



TOS Announces New Merchandise Coordinator



Great news! TOS has a new merchandise sales coordinator.

Sara Bettencourt Email: tanagersb@gmail.com of Houston has jumped into the position with both feet, and is working to make the shopping experience pleasant for our customers and efficient for the organization.

Welcome, Sara, and thanks for taking on the challenge.

To view the items we have on sale, log in to your account from our website, www.texasbirds.org, and select Store from the menu.

Take a look at the items for sale and let us know of any issues, questions or suggestions.



New Tee Shirt to be available at upcoming TOS Meeting. Afterwards from webpage.

Regional Reports

Region 1—Panhandle

—*Kelly Smith*

Region 2—North Central Texas

—*Ron Huebner*

Region 3—East Texas Timberlands (Pineywoods)

—*Laura Wilson*

Region 4—Trans-Pecos

Spring has sprung in Region 4!

Throughout most of Region 4, the return of the Turkey Vulture in March is considered a herald of spring. Birders and non-birders alike watch for them and note their return. They arrived right on schedule a few weeks ago, followed closely by the hummingbirds. Anna's, Black-chinned, and Broad-tailed have all been reported since March 13th.

On the topic of hummingbirds, the Hummingbird Celebration in Fort Davis is set for August 14–17th. Registration opens on May 15th. For more information, visit <https://davismountainshummingbirdcelebration.com/>.

Despite extremely dry conditions, other signs of spring are evident. We scouted some raptor nesting sites yesterday (March 22) and located a Red-tailed Hawk on the same nest utilized last year in one of the few trees between Fort Davis and HWY 166 on TX-17. We also located a Common Black Hawk in the vicinity of the nest used last year near the TX-118 rest area 7 miles SE of Fort Davis and another in Limpia Canyon. Also spotted today was a Zone-tailed Hawk along Limpia Creek.

The orioles have also just arrived. To date, I have reports of Bullock's and Scott's. Last year, we were lucky enough to have a pair of Hooded Orioles frequent our feeders and water throughout the spring and summer. Kelly Bryan confirmed that they had nested in Fort Davis previously (in the 90s) so we think they must have made a go of it here somewhere. We were never able to locate the nest, but it could not have been very far away from the house. Time to put out the oranges and jelly!

Bodies of water and water features are key to finding birds in these dry conditions. The stock tanks are all dry, and even the "big water" at Musquiz Creek on TX118 is greatly diminished. Even so, there have been some interesting sightings there of late – including three Common Mergansers, Osprey, Barn, Cave, and Cliff Swallows. The Davis Mountains State Park is down to one functioning water feature at the Interpretive Center (the hard freeze in January knocked out the Emory Oak blind water feature). Fortunately, the IC blind is where the Montezuma Quail were and continue to be seen regularly. Also seen fairly regularly there and throughout Jeff Davis County are Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. Normally considered rare in this area, they have been fairly easy to find this winter.

If the Colima Warbler is on your needs list, please keep in mind that construction due to start this summer will close

the Chisos Basin at Big Bend National Park to all visitors for up to two years. If you need that bird, this spring is the time to try for it. Alternatively, you could look for this bird at the Davis Mountains Preserve! Texas Tech research scientist Ari Rice has confirmed that pure Colima Warblers ARE present in Tobe Canyon! See <https://www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/events/tx-davis-mountains-open-days/> for the schedule of open weekends (the next one is July 11-13).

Happy birding!

—*Pamela Pipes*

Region 5—Edwards Plateau Report

Guest writer Zadok Pendleton

Howdy! My name is Zadok Pendleton. I am 12 years old, live in San Antonio, and am currently doing a big year in Bexar County. I've had a blast so far and have even had the privilege of finding several rarities.

This is the story of one of those rarities. For more than a year, my Dad, my two brothers, and I have been searching for Cactus Wrens in Bexar County. Historically they were common, but they have become quite rare. After some research, I found a promising location for Cactus Wrens in the southwest part of the county. There had been a report from this location, Haggard Ranch, in 2023, but there were no photos or recordings to vouch for it. The perfect opportunity to look for the Cactus Wren presented itself in January when a good birding friend, Kadyann Hatfield, was in town. We decided to search for it. We arrived at Haggard Ranch and all five of our search party poured out of our vehicle. We immediately began looking and listening attentively. Within three minutes, to our delight and surprise, we heard the harsh grating song of a Cactus Wren! A few moments later it popped out of the brush and was joined by a second Cactus Wren! Not only was this an exciting find, but it proved to be the first ever photo or audio-documented sighting in Bexar County!

Thanks to Metha Haggard for opening up her ranch*, other county listers came to see the Cactus Wrens. While there they found several other rare county birds, including a breeding pair of Black-throated Sparrows and four Sage Thrashers! This goes to show that when you find one rarity, other birders who chase it may end up discovering a treasure trove of other rarities. So I encourage you to go find something rare!

As you can imagine, I am so excited to have a Cactus Wren on my Bexar County Big Year list! As of March 26, 2025, I'm at 208 species and aiming for 307 which would beat the current record of 306! Some of my most recent additions are Chestnut-collared Longspur, Fulvous Whistling-Duck, and Sprague's Pipit. Happy birding!

*Metha encourages birders to come for a visit! You can text her at (210) 622-3886 to get permission.

Regional Reports (continued)



Cactus Wren photos by Zadok Pendleton

Guest writer Justus Pendleton

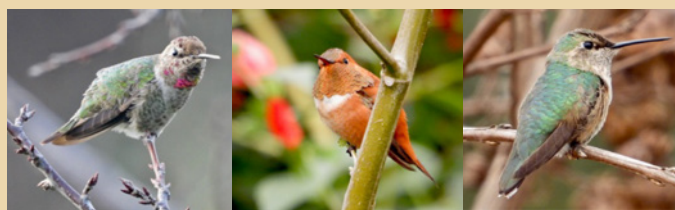
Hello fellow birders. I am a fourteen year old birder living in San Antonio. I am currently doing a Bexar County Big Year with my Dad and two brothers. We are always looking for rare birds to add to our year list. One of these exciting rarities showed up at our house one winter day.

Within the first week of our big year, a cold front moved through my hometown of San Antonio. The next morning, my brothers and I couldn't wait to get out of the house to look for rare winter birds that might have blown in. We birded at a local greenbelt and came home slightly discouraged as we did not find any of our targets. That changed several hours later when my ten year-old brother, Thaddeus, who had been taking out the trash, ran inside the house shouting, "HUMMINGBIRD!" We were all very excited as almost any wintering hummingbird is rare in Bexar County. We grabbed our cameras and stampeded out the door. Almost immediately we heard a hummingbird calling from our Shumard Oak tree. As soon as we got eyes on it, it flew across the street and into our neighbors tree; it then started to feed on Shrimp flowers. We finally got a good view of it as it fed. It was a medium sized hummer with a glistening green back, several pinkish-red throat feathers, and buffy sides. With this information and several pictures, I was able to identify it as an immature, male, Broad-tailed Hummingbird! We were super excited as this was a county bird and our first wintering hummingbird. A little later, I went back outside to get better photographs, and to my great surprise, I heard excited hummingbird calls and saw the Broad-tailed Hummingbird fighting with a second hummer! When they finally stopped fighting, I was able to get a good view of the unidentified humminbird. I immediately saw it was a Buff-Bellied Hummingbird! The

Buff-Bellied Hummingbird stayed for several minutes which was enough time for me to get my brothers on it but not enough time for my Dad to see it (even though he drove home from work as soon as we called him). The Buff-bellied Hummingbird was a one-day-wonder and was never seen again. But the Broad-tailed stayed for several months (from Jan 7th to March 11th). Birders from around San Antonio came to see it as it visited our feeders. Little did I realize that this exciting day in January was only a small part of the hummingbird-packed winter we were experiencing.

This past winter, with its mild weather, enabled more flowers to bloom, which in turn made it possible for western hummingbirds to winter farther north than their usual Mexican wintering grounds. More than thirty percent of Anna's Hummingbirds ever seen in Bexar County were reported this past winter (see eBird reports), and two extremely rare, male, Broad-billed Hummingbirds were seen at private residences. Eight of the eleven species of hummingbirds ever seen in Bexar County were observed this past winter. I was able to observe eight species throughout the winter and SIX species in one day (Anna's, Allen's, Ruby-throated, Broad-tailed, Black-chinned, and Rufous)! Seeing four species anywhere West of the Guadalupe Mountains in one day is unusual, but seeing six is extremely rare. Even at my house, which is in a dense neighborhood, I saw five species this winter, one of which was the immature male Broad-tailed Hummingbird.

I feel privileged to have seen so many of God's beautiful hummingbirds this winter. With these hummingbirds and many other species of birds, my Big Year Bexar County List is now at 211 species. I am less than 100 away from completing my goal of breaking the previous Big Year record of 306. I can't wait for migration! I hope all of you have an exciting time birding as spring migration begins!



—Christine Turnbull

Region 6—Central Prairie

—Crystal Ledezma

Region 7—Rio Grande Brushlands

With the sweet sounds of bird song filling the air, spring is certainly upon us. As we transition in to spring migration, you can help make our region a little safer for our feathered friends by turning off outdoor lights at night, keeping your cats indoors, and reducing window bird collisions. As we await the first wave of migrants to hit our feeders and water drips, let's reflect on the noteworthy bird sightings our region has observed over the last few months.

Regional Reports (continued)

Around the coastal bend, Nightjars like Common Pauraque and Eastern Whip-poor-wills have started vocalizing, and early spring migrants have been popping up like American Golden-plovers and Pectoral Sandpipers. The coastal bend was on fire during the last two months with rarities, with a Little Gull sighting at the Port Aransas Jetty during the city's annual Whooping Crane Festival. Just down the road at Holt Paradise Pond, birders found a Lucy's Warbler which stayed for several days. A mysterious Heerman's Gull was reported on Mustang Island with photo evidence; however, the exact location was not established, and the bird was not relocated.

The Rio Grande Valley continued to provide entertaining bird sightings throughout the winter such as Black-headed & Crimson-collared Grosbeaks, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Hermit & Grace's Warblers, and Lazuli Bunting. Anna's Hummingbirds showed up throughout the valley, including locations such as Bentsen RGV State Park, Salineno, Quinta Mazatlan, and Laguna Vista. The western portion of the Rio Grande Valley continued to produce noteworthy species like Sage Thrasher, Red-billed Pigeon, Rose-throated Becard, Common Black Hawk, Hook-billed Kite, Mottled Owl, and Brown Jay. Last but certainly not least, birders willing to visit the Brownsville landfill were rewarded with sightings of Kelp, Iceland, and Glaucous Gulls.

Participants at the Laredo Birding Festival in early February observed 142 species of birds. Birders got access to under-birded locations including private ranches not usually open to the public. An all-around exciting trip report, highlights included Muscovy Duck, Mexican Duck, Scaled Quail, Red-billed Pigeon, Greater Pewee, Cactus Wren, Cassin's Sparrow, Green-tailed Towhee.

Please send any news, events, or interesting bird stories for me to include in future region 7 reports. For reference, region 7 includes the coastal bend west to Laredo, and south to the Rio Grande Valley. You can reach me at swolfe@manomet.org. Thank you to all our members, and a special shoutout to new member Brian Stephan- welcome to TOS!

—Samantha Wolfe

Region 8—Central Prairie

As I write this, dozens of people are checking Facebook pages, Whatsapp groups, and Discord channels to see if anyone has a "golden ticket" to share. No, they aren't hoping to visit chocolate waterfalls or eat everlasting gobstoppers. They are hoping for a chance to see a celebrity in Region 8, an Amur Stonechat.

This small, pale, unassuming bird should be in southeast Asia right now. A first record for Texas, it was initially discovered during a Christmas bird count at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (now formally renamed to Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge). The section of the refuge where the bird decided to overwinter is not open to the public. For months, members of Friends of Anahuac have worked with refuge staff to gain limited access to the site so birders from around the country have a chance to see it.

Tours officially began in early March, with an online registration system. Registration is free on the Friends of Anahuac website, but those hoping to snag a reservation need to be quick...they have been selling out within 2-5 minutes! When people snag a coveted reservation, they are allowed to bring a car carrying themselves plus 4 passengers. Some people actively search on various social media platforms to find birders to fill their cars. So far, several hundred people have been able to see the stonechat.

It is a community effort to get as many people on the bird. And the clock is ticking...some have suggested the stonechat could migrate in late March or early April. If you are lucky enough to get a golden ticket, consider donating to Friends of Anahuac and letting refuge staff know your appreciation for the opportunity.

—Kendra Kocab



Amur Stonechat. Photo by Frank Farese.

TOS NEWS Staff

Jack Eitnear	Editor	Judy Kestner	Proofreader
		Susan Foster	Proofreader
		Sara Bettencourt	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 ©2025 Texas Ornithological Society

Victor Emanuel, top birder and founder of Austin ecotourism company, has died at age 84



Michael Barnes

Austin American-Statesman

Published 10:26 a.m. CT March 12, 2025 | Updated 4:16 p.m. CT March 14, 2025



Victor Emanuel, one of the world's top birders and founder of a global ecotourism company based in Austin, died Tuesday after a long illness.

He was 84.

"His love of nature was absolutely infectious," said Peter English, who led nature tours and camps for Emanuel's company for 25 years. "He loved sharing. I remember asking if he went out birding by himself. He did, but he didn't really like it as much. Part of the joy was seeing the bird, but the other part was sharing."

Born Oct. 24, 1940, Victor Emanuel, who grew up in Houston and moved to Austin in 1978, founded Victor Emanuel Nature Tours in 1976. It is housed in offices on the lip of Barton Creek Canyon. Each year, the company leads more than 150 themed trips to destinations in every part of the planet.

Emanuel's father was sports editor for the Houston Post and a supporter of Democratic Party causes; his mother was

a second-generation antiques dealer. The family lived not far from Houston's Hermann Park and close to a large, then-undeveloped piece of land on Holcombe Boulevard. Smitten with nature, Emanuel collected snakes, insects and other critters.

"There were open ditches everywhere," Emanuel told the American-Statesman in 2016. "My favorite thing was catching crawfish with bacon on the end of the string. Not to eat, just to catch. If you went into a vacant lot, you could pick up wood and find snakes: Texas brown snakes, bull snakes. The prize was a coachwhip."

Emanuel studied biology, zoology and botany at Rice University, then public affairs at Harvard University on a Woodrow Wilson scholarship. He ran political campaigns in the Houston area, but he started giving bird-watching tours on the side. In 1955, Emanuel started a Christmas count of bird species in the Freeport area. He set up camp at a Surfside Beach cabin with fellow birders and went to work.

“I started in 1956 with 11 people,” Emanuel says. “We saw 111 species. By 1972, we set the all-time record at 226. There was some Texas pride in that.” (The record has since been surpassed.)

With co-author S. Kirk Walsh, Emanuel wrote the classic memoir, “One More Warbler: A Life with Birds,” named for his favorite avians. Fellow birders lent him the nickname “Warbler” for those colorful, often elusive birds, many of which migrate through Texas during the spring and fall.

“I am a birder and a bird lover and a bird-watcher,” Emanuel said about the three distinct roles in 2016. “Birds are very alert; they are aware of any movement. They are animals of sight and sound, which is the same for humans, with comparatively weak senses of smell. Watching them, we become more alert. We notice everything: the shape of clouds, a change of wind, drops of water that become more like prisms. It gives us a different life.”

Emanuel befriended novelist and naturalist Peter Matthiessen, adventurous journalist George Plimpton, and environmentalist Armand Yramatagui of the eponymous Armand Bayou near Space Center Houston. His friends in the field ranged from Roger Tory Peterson, perhaps the country’s most famous birder, to President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush.

Gentle and nonjudgemental as an instructor, Emanuel shared his joy and awe about nature with anyone who accompanied him.

“That’s what made him a natural born tour leader,” English said. “He was a tour leader, even if it was just him and a friend. Didn’t matter who he was with, nothing changed.”

“Victor has shown so many people amazing birds around the world, the importance of healthy habitats and how the two go hand in hand,” Laura Huffman, former Texas director of the Nature Conservancy and former president and CEO of the Austin Chamber of Commerce told the American-Statesman in 2016. “He is deeply regarded by all in the conservation community as an expert and a friend.”

“Based on solid science and decades of field experience, Victor tells the story of nature passionately and eloquently,” says George Cofer, an Austin native and advocate for conservation. “He was one of the first people to open my eyes to the extraordinary beauty of nature from a worldly, down-to-earth perspective. Victor was born to love nature and teach about nature.

Travis Audubon, a bird advocacy group, named its conservation awards after Emanuel. Donations can be made to the *Victor Emanuel Young Naturalists Scholarship Fund*, which has sent scores of young ecologists to nature camps through a program started by Emanuel in 1986. A public memorial will take place later this year.

Reproduced from the Austin American-Statesman
<https://www.statesman.com/>



Victor Emanuel, one of the world’s top birders, was always alert for small movements, flashes of color as he walked through nature. Here Emanuel watches above Blunn Creek in South Austin. *Provided By Brenda Ladd Photo*



This spring TOS will celebrate a Texas Parks and Wildlife/Audubon Texas Bird City: **Cedar Hill, Texas**. Dates for our event are April 24-27, 2025. Registration runs from March 16 to April 18.

We are pleased to work with Cedar Hill's Parks and Recreation representative, Katie Christman, and Chloe Crumley of Audubon Texas, who helped us put together exciting presentations, great food options, and an array of field trips that will take you to private ranches, area hot spots like Dogwood Canyon, the famous rarity round-up and, of course, our Texas Century Club trips.

Our host hotel is the Fairfield Inn & Suites where event check-in and trip departures will take place. Due to a sports tournament taking place at the same time, we are using two hotels for sleeping rooms. Single king rooms are available at the Fairfield Inn. For shared rooms, lodging is available at the Holiday Inn & Suites in Duncanville which is just five miles from the Fairfield. Queen doubles and queen suites are available there. Registration information appears below.

To show our support of the Bird City program, we will hold our evening events at three different venues in town. Thursday evening's presentation at the Traphene Hickman Public Library in Cedar Hill will provide local information about the birds and the region. On Friday, in addition to awarding Texas Century Club pins, we host a panel discussion about the Bird City program at the Alan Sims Recreation Center. For Saturday's banquet we will convene at the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center for the presentation of the McNeese and Kincaid awards, as well as the new Dennis Shepler Award, and a talk by the executive director of Audubon Texas. Election results and our annual membership report will be given Saturday. Both the Friday and Saturday talks will be preceded by reports of the day's birding results so be sure to attend! (Link to area map [HERE](#).)

Our TOS merchandise will be on sale (new shirts and hats!). Bert Frenz will have for sale copies of his newest book, *Birds of the Central Oaks and Prairies of Texas with an Emphasis on Historical Changes*. We'll have a prize drawing at each evening's presentation, with lots of time to network and socialize.

We are eager to explore this part of North Central Texas and look forward to seeing you there!

– Christine Turnbull, TOS Past-President
and Planning Committee Chair

EVENT REGISTRATION

Online registration will open on **March 16, 2025, at 6:00 a.m.**, and will close on **April 18, 2025, at 11:55 p.m.** A confirmation email will be sent once your payment is complete. We are offering our new Blue Bunting t-shirts for sale on the registration form as well. More details under Registration Information below.

The fee for the event remains \$100 per TOS member. It is \$135 for non-members, which includes a one-year membership. Students may attend for free. An administrative fee of \$35 will be deducted from refunds made between April 12 and 18, 2025. **No refunds can be made after April 18, 2025.**

FIELD TRIP DEPARTURE

Caravans to field trip sites will depart from the parking lot of the Fairfield Inn in Cedar Hill. Please be prepared to carpool to birding locations.

Health Safety During the Meeting

For the health and safety of everyone, TOS asks that participants fully comply with health guidelines set by private businesses and municipal entities.

Hotel and Breakfast

KING ROOMS: FAIRFIELD INN & SUITES CEDAR HILL

Register by **APRIL 3, 2025**. Register using [this link](#). Room rate is \$114 excluding tax and gratuity. Cancellations must be received by 11:00 p.m. the day prior to arrival. Includes free hot breakfast beginning at 5:00 a.m. daily.

DOUBLE QUEEN STANDARD ROOM OR QUEEN SUITE: HOLIDAY INN & SUITES, DUNCANVILLE

Register by **APRIL 3, 2025**, either **online** selecting Group Rate for the code, or by calling the hotel directly at 972-298-8000 and requesting “in-house” reservations. Identify yourself as part of our group, provide your name, requested type of room (i.e. standard double queen or queen suite), check-in and check-out dates and a credit or debit card to guarantee the room. Room rate for standard queen rooms is \$139 and for the suite it is \$159 excluding tax and gratuity. Cancellations must be received 48 hours prior to arrival.

Room cost includes a free continental breakfast beginning at 5:00 a.m. daily, and hot breakfast beginning at 6:30 a.m. daily.

Lunches

Box lunch options, including gluten-free and vegetarian choices, may be ordered when you register for this event. The cost is \$14 per meal and your order must be submitted by **APRIL 14, 2025**. No refunds will be given after that date. They will be distributed each morning at the hotel.

Saturday Night Banquet

We will offer a barbeque buffet, with a gluten-free vegetarian option available. Make your selection when you register for the meeting online. Cost is \$35 per person. **ORDERS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY APRIL 14, 2025.** No refunds will be given after that date.

Merchandise Orders



We will have all our items on sale on Thursday and Friday nights. Our new Blue Bunting t-shirt will also be offered for sale on the event registration form. As a convenience, you may pre-order any TOS store product from our website and pick it up at the event on Thursday evening. Simply log in to your account on

our website, www.texasbirds.org, and select the Store page from the menu and look for items marked “PICK UP AT MEETING” which will allow you to avoid shipping costs.

Meeting Agenda

THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025

Fairfield Inn Cedar Hill, 409 N. Clark Rd.

3:00-6:00 PM Event check-in

Traphene Hickman Public Library, 450 Pioneer Tr.

6:30 PM Sales Table/Welcome/Introductions/Announcements: Christine Turnbull, Planning Committee Chair, and Romey Swanson, TOS President (Lots of useful information is given during this time, so please attend.)

7:00 PM Speakers: Sam Kieschnick, Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife and Jessica Alderson, Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife

7:45 PM Meet your leaders for tomorrow’s trips

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

Fairfield Inn Cedar Hill

All Day Birding caravans leave between 5:15 and 7:00 a.m. 4:00-5:00 PM Late event check-in at the Fairfield Inn

Alan Sims Recreation Center, 310 E. Parkerville Rd.

6:00-7:30 PM Sales Table/Announcements/Birding Reports/Century Club Pin Presentations Panel Discussion: – *Value of the Bird City Initiative*

7:45 PM Meet your leaders for tomorrow’s trips

SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025

Fairfield Inn Cedar Hill

All Day Birding caravans leave between 5:30 and 7:00 a.m.

Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, 1206 FM 1382

4:30 PM Social half-hour and cash bar *al fresco*

5:00 PM Banquet/Announcements/Birding Reports

6:15 PM TOS Annual Report/Election Results/TOS Special Awards

7:00 PM Keynote speaker Lisa Gonzalez, Executive Director of Audubon Texas

7:45 PM Meet your leaders for tomorrow’s trips

SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2025

Fairfield Inn Cedar Hill

Half Day Birding caravans leave between 5:45 and 7:00 a.m.

12:00-1:00 PM Depart for home.

Registration Information

Online event registration begins on **March 16, 2025, at 6:00 a.m.**

A list of field trips appears at the end of this message. Some trips fill quickly, so have in mind a second choice each day just in case. If you would like to be on a waitlist for a trip that is full, contact Judy Kestner at 361-701-1962 by phone or text, or tosmember@yahoo.com. Please include **your name, the trip number and how many spaces you’ll need.**

You may register in two ways:

1. Click the link **HERE** and register.
2. From the home page of our **website**, log in to your TOS account and go to View My Event Registrations.

For questions, or if you do not have access to the internet, you may call or text Judy Kestner at 361- 701-1962 for assistance. If you don’t get an answer, leave a detailed message and Judy will return your call.

Event Prices

The Spring Meeting Package includes three field trips (excluding special entry fees) and three evening presentations.

\$100 for TOS members

\$135 for non-TOS members (includes a one-year membership) FREE for all students

A \$35 administrative fee will be deducted from any refunds issued between April 12 and 18, 2025. No refunds after April 18, 2025.

Our meetings are open only to current TOS members. Confirm that your membership payments, as well as your email address and phone number, are up to date by visiting www.texasbirds.org and clicking Member Login.

Once your payment for this event is received, a confirmation email will be sent to you showing the trips, box lunches, merchandise and banquet meal that you have selected. Please look it over for accuracy.

Any merchandise you order online will be distributed at check-in.

Another email will be sent closer to the meeting date with additional details.

Meeting Presentations

Thursday Evening

7:00 PM

Title: Welcome to Cedar Hill – a Texas Bird City

We are pleased to host two presenters this evening.

Presenter #1: SAM KIESCHNICK, Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife

Description: Sam will introduce the ecology of Cedar Hill and the North Texas region, setting the stage for an exciting weekend of birding and discovery. We can't wait for you to hear his insights and infectious enthusiasm for the natural world!



Sam Kieschnick

Bio: Sam works at the intersection of urbanization and wildlife, helping landowners, municipalities, and communities create and manage habitat for native species. His work spans outreach, technical guidance, and research, with a strong passion for engaging the public in conservation.

A graduate of Tarleton State University with a master's degree in genetics, Sam's career has included roles as a college professor, herbarium botanist, science interpreter, and naturalist. Now with TPWD, he's an advocate for citizen science, particularly through iNaturalist, which he calls the most powerful tool for exploring and learning about nature.

Presenter #2: JESSICA ALDERSON, Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife

Title: Implementing Urban Wildlife Management Strategies

Description: Jessica shares her expertise on urban bird conservation and the role of cities in supporting Texas' avian diversity, focusing on the Texas Bird City Program, a community-focused certification initiative, to help Texans protect birds and their habitats where we live, work and recreate.

Bio: Jessica Alderson received her bachelor's and master's degrees in wildlife and fisheries sciences from



Jessica Alderson

Texas A&M University. Her master's research focused on the human dimensions of urban wildlife management, specifically white-tailed deer.

In 2008, Jessica began working as an Urban Biologist for Texas Parks and Wildlife in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex. In 2012

she transferred to the Urban Office in San Antonio. As an Urban Biologist Jessica performed professional planning, management, research, and public outreach associated with wildlife, habitat, and natural resource management specific to the San Antonio area. In April 2023, Jessica became the Urban Wildlife Technical Guidance Program Leader, leading a team of nine Urban Wildlife Biologists that coordinate and implement urban wildlife management strategies and technical guidance across the state.

Friday Evening

6:30 PM

Title: Value of Texas Parks and Wildlife's Bird City Designation

Panel Member #1:



Katie Christman

K A T I E CHRISTMAN is the Nature and Open Space Coordinator for the City of Cedar Hill Parks and Recreation Department. She leads and manages the development and implementation of the city's nature and open space programs, including the city's Bird City certification, and

serves as a liaison and strategic relationship builder between partners and local organizations, focusing on connecting the Cedar Hill community to their local environment. She assists in the natural resource and conservation management of the city's green spaces and parks.

Prior to working with the City of Cedar Hill, Katie worked for Dallas County Parks and Open Space and Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center.

A Yankee turned Southerner, though Katie misses the mountains of upstate NY, she has found adventure in the vast landscape of Texas and beyond. Whether she is kayaking, birding, scuba diving or hiking, she is always up for an adventure (especially if Buc-ee's is involved).

Service to community is a value that Katie cherishes and is actively involved in her church community, Indian Trail Master Naturalists, and Meat Fight, a local organization that supports those affected by multiple sclerosis.

Panel Member #2:



Chloe Crumley

C H L O E CRUMLEY, Audubon Texas Engagement Manager, leads the ongoing development and implementation of statewide partnerships for urban conservation to ‘bend the bird curve’. Connecting with communities, elected officials, and partners,

Chloe guides our urban spaces to be bird-friendly through policy change and two statewide programs - Bird City Texas and Lights Out Texas - designed to help birds thrive and people prosper where we live, work, and recreate. Across Texas, 15 cities have been designated as a Bird City and dozens of communities participate in Lights Out, Texas!

Saturday Evening

7:00 PM

Title: *From Binoculars to Impact: How Birders Can Drive Conservation*

Description: *Something*

Keynote Speaker: **LISA GONZALEZ**, Vice President and Executive Director of Audubon Texas, the state office of the National Audubon Society.

Bio: Lisa leads a statewide team of dedicated conservation science, policy, community engagement, and education professionals to implement Audubon’s Flight Plan and mission to protect birds and the places they need



Lisa Gonzalez

today and tomorrow. She has spent more than three decades leading conservation initiatives, sustainability programs, and community-driven environmental efforts. Before joining Audubon, she served as CEO of the Houston Advanced Research Center (HARC), where she led interdisciplinary research

on resilience, climate adaptation, coastal management, and sustainable land use.

Under her leadership, Audubon Texas drives impactful conservation programs across coastal, grassland, and urban ecosystems, ensuring resilient landscapes for both birds and people. She has played a key role in expanding partnerships, advocating for science-based policies, and advancing initiatives like Audubon Conservation Ranching, Texas Coastal Rookery Island and Shorebird programs, Lights Out Texas!, and Bird City Texas. Her work has contributed to large-scale habitat restoration on the Texas coast, collaborative grassland conservation strategies, and efforts that engage private landowners in sustainable land management. Committed to fostering inclusive conservation efforts and resilient communities, Lisa brings a strong background in environmental science, holding degrees from Texas A&M University at Galveston and the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She also serves on several nonprofit boards and advisory committees, ensuring Texas’s natural heritage remains protected for future generations.

TOS Field Trips – Cedar Hill, April 25-27, 2025

Friday – 7 trips Saturday – 8 trips Sunday – 5 trips

Please have a second option in mind for each day, as some trips fill quickly.

NOTE: Participants must meet their field trip group in the parking lot of the Fairfield Inn at least 15 minutes prior to start time. Due to logistical complications, it is not possible for individuals to meet the group at any other location. Please plan accordingly. **NOTE: There will be entrance fees at some locations. Please have small bills available as well as bringing your state and national parks passes. Bring your walkie-talkies!**

NUMBER	FIELD TRIP AND DESCRIPTION	COUNTY	DIFFICULTY	DEPARTURE & HOTEL RETURN TIMES		
				FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
1	77 RANCH IN BLOOMING GROVE: The 77 Ranch is large at over 2,200 acres, of which 275 acres are original Blackland Prairie, one of the most endangered ecosystems in the country. The ranch has prioritized wetland and water development and the addition of thick native grasses in the riparian zone filters the water and slows erosion and runoff. The 77 Ranch has also focused on diversifying the ranch’s income through quail and turkey population restoration, bass fishing and waterfowl and bird hunting. They have received the Outstanding Rangeland Steward Award from the Texas Section Society for Range Management and the Leopold Conservation Award for Texas from Sand County Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The ranch owners, Gary & Sue Price, have graciously invited TOS to bird the ranch. Also, a big thanks to our partner Audubon Texas – Conservation Ranching Program for helping set this up. <i>Driving time from the hotel: less than one hour Easy walking on ranch trails.</i>	NAVARRO	EASY	6:15 a.m.-3:30 pm	6:15 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	

2	<p>DOGWOOD CANYON/CEDAR MTN. NATURE PRESERVE: These properties contain what is regarded as being the most southwesterly naturally occurring population of dogwoods in the U.S. and some describe Dogwood Canyon as Dallas's piece of the Edward's Plateau.</p> <p>We start at Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center. For the first hour we will join the facility's Birding by Ear walk, and then continue on their trails. The trail is approximately 2.6 miles in total and includes one of the few places in the region that provides enough elevation to afford views over the tops of trees. There are creeks and occasional benches.</p> <p>We'll be looking for Golden-cheeked Warblers, hawks, Chuck-will's-widows, breeding waterthrushes, vireos, and more.</p> <p>After lunch, we walk the canyon floor trail and/or the Cedar Mountain Preserve.</p> <p><i>NOTE: Donations appropriate at Dogwood Canyon</i></p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: about 5 minutes</i></p> <p><i>Some steep trails, about 2.6 miles total at Dogwood Canyon. Natural surface and concrete paths at Cedar Mtn.</i></p>	DALLAS	MODERATELY STRENUOUS		7:00 a.m.-2:45 p.m.	
3	<p>BURGUNDY BEEF RANCH: This ranch has graciously allowed TOS special access to bird here. The property is an Audubon Conservation Ranching certified property. It is managed for conservation while raising grass fed beef for the "natural" meat market. The 600-acre property is the site of an old town called Island Grove, named for being situated in the largest stand of Post Oak trees between Waco and Fort Worth, which stood out at the time because the area was predominantly tall grass prairie.</p> <p>Today, the ranch is managed for healthy habitat including the small Post Oak grove, deep Blackland Prairie with several native grasses, riparian zone along Island Creek, and a Soil Conservation site small lake.</p> <p>Be among the first TOS members to bird this model of conservation ranching.</p> <p><i>Trinity River Audubon will provide a large van to move us about the ranch in style on Friday. On Saturday only, we will caravan to the ranch from the hotel.</i></p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: 40-45 minutes</i></p> <p><i>Walks on flat surfaces, mowed paths and prairie trails.</i></p>	HILL	EASY	6:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	6:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	
4	<p>THE GREAT TRINITY FOREST & JOHN BUNKER SANDS WETLANDS – Everything's Bigger in Texas: The Great Trinity Forest is home to the Trinity River Audubon Center and comprised of roughly 6,000 acres of mostly bottomland woods that follow the Trinity River. It's heralded as one of the largest urban forests in the country.</p> <p>But wait, there's more: John Bunker Sands Wetlands contains the largest man-made wetlands in the U.S. where 300 species of birds have been seen. This expansive 3,300-acre tract of bottomland forest and wetlands on the East Fork of the Trinity River is the result of one rancher's interest in conservation.</p> <p>Ornithologist Blaine Carnes will be banding birds there and has invited us to stop by.</p> <p><i>There will be a small entry fee payable at the location.</i></p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: less than half an hour Mostly concrete trails on the Trinity River; at wetlands, a boardwalk of .6 miles round trip, and gravel road trails.</i></p>	DALLAS	EASY	5:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	5:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.	
5	<p>MINDFUL BIRDING AND A BEER: Sometimes birding slow is birding smart. We'll visit the Lake Lewisville Environmental Learning Area (LLELA). Fortuitously located where the Blackland Prairies and the Eastern Cross Timbers meet, with the Elm Fork of the Trinity River and its associated riparian forest winding right through the middle of things, this diversity of habitats creates a profusion of wildlife.</p> <p>Possible birds include Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Indigo Bunting, Painted Bunting, White-eyed and Red-eyed Vireos, gnatcatchers, migrating warblers and Bald Eagles. We'll also find Osprey, herons and egrets galore, Anhinga, Barn Swallow, Chimney Swift, Northern Rough-wing Swallows, Scissortailed Flycatchers, migrating shorebirds and gulls, and even some sparrows.</p> <p>We should be through by early afternoon. And our leader knows where some good pubs are...</p> <p><i>\$5 per vehicle fee at LLELA.</i></p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: about 45 minutes Many natural surface trails.</i></p>	DENTON	EASY	6:45 a.m.-2:30 p.m.		
6	<p>THOUGHTFUL BIRDING AT GRAPEVINE LAKE PARKS: Lake Grapevine is an 8,000-acre reservoir surrounded by several great parks for birding. One of the great aspects of birding is that you can approach it from many different angles. Watching birds, with the goals of understanding what they are doing and better understanding how they live their lives, is the focus of this field trip to various parks around Grapevine Lake.</p> <p>We will take the time to really watch who is doing what, talk about bird biology, discuss applicable research, and try to understand what is going on with the birds. We will be looking for breeding behavior, migration behavior and maintenance behavior. Even if we can't explain the "why" behind the behavior we see, you will have a deeper connection to our amazing birds from having observed them going about their lives.</p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: 40-45 minutes</i></p> <p><i>Mostly driving and hiking short sections of trails. Some parks charge for entrance per car.</i></p>	DENTON/TARRANT	EASY	6:15 a.m.-3:00 p.m.		

7	<p>ELLIS COUNTY BIG HALF SCRAMBLE: We'll visit Cut-off Road and its sod farm along the Trinity River floodplain. This area can hold nice numbers of shorebirds and lingering winter field birds.</p> <p>From there, we'll bird our way towards Waxahachie and spend our late morning time at Getzendaner Park and Waxahachie Cemetery for migrating passerines. While in Waxahachie, we will finish up at a private home where you can bird the yard and watch the feeders from the deck while eating your self-provided lunch.</p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: about an hour</i></p> <p><i>Note: There will be a couple of walks of around a mile or two on dirt trails and roads as well as a little car birding. At least one scope per car is advised. Drivers and participants should be prepared for mud – waterproof boots would be helpful in a few spots.</i></p>	ELLIS	EASY/MODERATE			5:45 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
8	<p>VILLAGE CREEK DRYING BEDS: The Village Creek Drying Beds are 130 acres of an abandoned wastewater treatment plant that is a haven for birds and a hotspot for migrating shorebirds and passerines, and for the chance of rarities showing up. Listen for owls before sun-up.</p> <p>Daily lists of 60+ species possible.</p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: about 25 minutes</i></p> <p><i>Dirt trails, mix of shade and sun. No restrooms on the property. A stop at River Legacy Park before the visit would be advisable!</i></p>	TARRANT	EASY			6:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
9	<p>HILL COUNTY-I'M DRIVIN' THAT WAY ANYWAY: We'll start the morning off at Lake Whitney State Park. With a mix of woodland and prairie habitat along Lake Whitney, this state park is a great place to boost your Hill County list. Some of our targets will be Neotropic Cormorant, Osprey, and migratory passerines.</p> <p>Afterwards we'll visit Lofer Bend Park and look for Spotted Sandpiper, Canada Goose, Blue-winged Teal, and other migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.</p> <p>On the way back to I-35 we'll make a stop at Hillsboro City Park to search for some urban birds such as American Robin, Chimney Swift, and Eurasian Collared-Dove.</p> <p><i>Note: Lake Whitney State Park fee is \$5 per person (if you don't have a Texas State Park Pass) and Lofer Bend Park fee is \$5 per vehicle (if you don't have a Corps of Engineers Pass).</i></p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: just over one hour Easy trails.</i></p>	HILL	EASY			5:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
10	<p>RARITY ROUNDUP: Our trip leaders will compile a list of the local vagrants and uncommon species that were seen during the event and put together a morning trip to find as many as possible. This is a great way to get another look at a favorite bird, or to finally check a lifer or county bird off your list.</p> <p><i>There could be long walks, depending on where the rarities have been seen.</i></p>	VARIOUS	RUN AND GUN			6:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
11	<p>DALLAS COUNTY SAMPLER: Dallas is home to several parks that can be absolute treasure troves for migrants, especially migrant warblers. The search for warblers and other spring migrants is on at two of DFW's best migrant traps!</p> <p>First, we will visit Prairie Creek which runs between Collin and Dallas Counties. You will have the chance to add many species to TWO counties in a single visit! Many warbler species are possible in the pecan groves while other migrants like tanagers, orioles and flycatchers abound along the creek.</p> <p>After a quick lunch nearby, we will head to Harry Moss Park in Dallas to continue searching for migrants including hummingbirds, grosbeaks, buntings and the many birds attracted to the mature mulberry trees. Both parks usually host some of the best spring rarities in the metroplex and are easily walkable. We will coordinate a stop between parks for restrooms and lunch.</p> <p>In the afternoon we will visit the restricted Dallas Southside Wastewater Treatment Plant to search for shorebirds and waterfowl. This portion of the day is birding by car to give your legs a break. Time permitting, we can visit Wolf Springs Road to search the sod farm for additional shorebirds and raptors.</p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: about 55 minutes</i></p> <p><i>Expect some muddy conditions and bring bug spray. Moderate amount of walking.</i></p>	COLLIN/DALLAS	EASY TO MODERATE		6:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	
<p>TEXAS CENTURY CLUB TRIPS: These trips are fast paced outings with the goal of maximizing the number of species seen/heard within the county. There is very little time for lingering looks so prepare to move briskly from spot to spot. Extensive driving to/from sites and roadside birding are a norm. The tour will feature as wide a variety of habitats as possible.</p>						
12	<p>ROCKWALL-THE SMALLEST COUNTY IN TEXAS: A Sunday morning fast-paced birding visit to the smallest county in Texas. Birding here is tough because most of the county is developed, however there are a few spots along the lake-shore and a few parks including Harry Myers Park Pettinger Nature Preserve that should keep us busy before we roam out into the few less developed country roads that could net us some more species from different habitat.</p> <p>Focus is on species diversity and quickly moving through different habitat to try to work on this difficult county for Texas Century Club lists.</p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: just over one hour</i></p> <p><i>Mostly birding from the car, with short walks near the road.</i></p>	ROCKWALL	EASY			5:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

13	<p>DENTON COUNTY CENTURY CLUB: Fast and furious birding will start at two of the best hotspots in the metroplex - Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area (LLELA) and Lake Park. LLELA has beautiful trails through riparian bottomland forest that could be good for migrants, and Lake Park has brushy and open habitat along the lake that has had some amazing rarities over the years, some real potential for waterbird and shorebird goodies.</p> <p>After a morning's birding at these two spots, we'll likely head east along the lakeshore towards Frisco to bird some other lake side parks, or head southwest to bird the north side of Lake Grapevine on the way back. Depending on the time, we might sneak in a quick birding spot in Tarrant County on the way home.</p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: under one hour</i></p> <p><i>Note: \$5/vehicle at LLELA and \$10/vehicle at Lake Park. Max of 3 vehicles. Smooth trails, short walks.</i></p>	DENTON	EASY		5:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	
14	<p>HOOD & SOMERVELL COUNTY DOUBLE-DIP CENTURY CLUB:</p> <p>We aim to cover as much ground and habitat as possible in these two small counties right next to each other. Spots will likely include Acton Nature Center, Lake Granbury Dam and Spillway along the Brazos River, Dinosaur Valley State Park, and Wheeler Branch Park, as well as some county road birding for different habitats. Highlights could include Hill Country birds like Rufous- crowned Sparrow, Woodhouse's Scrub-jay, Golden-cheeked Warbler, and Black-capped Vireo. We hope to at least hear some of these birds singing, but the focus will be species diversity to maximize Texas Century Club participants' county lists</p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: about 65 minutes</i></p> <p><i>A \$10/person fee to access Wheeler Branch Park will be charged when you register online for the event; state park pass or cash required at Dinosaur Valley. Hope to keep it at 3 cars. Birding from the car with short walks near the road.</i></p>	HOOD/SOMERVELL	EASY	5:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.		
15	<p>ELLIS COUNTY CENTURY CLUB: This is a large, mostly rural county south of Dallas, with several productive hotspots. The goal of the trip will be a large species list, as well as targeting tougher species like Horned Lark and Bobolink.</p> <p>We'll visit Cut-off Road and its sod farm along the Trinity River floodplain. The species list from this road is well over 200 and, with the right conditions, can hold nice numbers of shorebirds and lingering winter field birds.</p> <p>From there, we'll focus our late morning time on Getzendaner Park and Waxahachie Cemetery for migrating passerines. While in Waxahachie, we will take a short midday break at a private home where you can bird the yard and watch the feeders from the deck while eating your self-provided lunch.</p> <p>Much of the afternoon will be spent birding around Lake Bardwell to target other habitats and species we still need for the county.</p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: about one hour</i></p> <p><i>There will be a couple of walks of around a mile or two on dirt trails and roads as well as some car birding. At least one scope per car is advised. Drivers and participants should be prepared for mud – waterproof boots would be helpful a few spots.</i></p>	ELLIS	EASY		5:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	
16	<p>TARRANT COUNTY CENTURY CLUB: This will be a fast-paced trip focusing on getting as many species as possible.</p> <p>We'll start off on the west side of the county in the Benbrook area and work our way eastward. Likely stops will include Benbrook Lake (North Holiday Park), Pecan Valley Park, Winscott Plover Road, Village Creek Drying Beds, River Legacy Park, and Viridian Lake. This route will take us through various habitats and give us good chances for migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, and passerines, as well as many of the resident species.</p> <p><i>Note: North Holiday Park fee is \$5 per vehicle (if you don't have a Corps of Engineers Pass).</i></p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: about one hour</i></p> <p><i>Birding from the car with short walks near the road.</i></p>	TARRANT	EASY	5:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.		
17	<p>JOHNSON COUNTY CENTURY CLUB: This county gets quite a bit of coverage due to its proximity to Fort Worth. We'll visit different habitats throughout the day. There are several great hotspots and if the spring migration winds are favorable, we have a shot at a century.</p> <p>We'll track down lingering sparrows, migrant warblers and arriving residents. Keep your eyes and ears open for shorebirds, raptors, swallows and wrens.</p> <p><i>Driving time from the hotel: about 35 minutes</i></p> <p><i>Birding from the car mostly, with short walks on park trails.</i></p>	JOHNSON	EASY	5:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.		



Dear TOS Members:

Directors of the TOS Board serve three-year terms and each year the terms of four of the twelve directors expire. After votes are tallied, the Board will elect officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer) at its first meeting after the election.

The election of board members by TOS members and the election of officers by the Board are held each year in the March/April time frame. This year election results will be announced by email on April 22, 2025, and the new directors and officers will be introduced at the spring banquet in Cedar Hill, Texas on April 26, 2025.

This year we offer online voting for the very first time. The process will save time and money for you and for our organization, and we anticipate a much larger response from our membership.

A paper ballot is still available for those who so desire.

The link to our online ballot and to the paper version will be shared in a few days. In the meantime, please log into your account at www.texasbirds.org and make sure your membership dues are current through April 30, since only TOS members may vote in our elections.

Christine Turnbull

TOS Nominations Committee Chair

Texas Birding Festivals in 2025

Date Festival Location

Feb 20 – 23

March 7 – 9

Apr 9 – 12

Apr 24 – 27

Apr 23 – 27

Apr 25 – 27

May 1 – 4

May 1 – 4

Aug 14 – 17

Sep 13 & 20

Sep 18 – 21

Nov 5 – 9

Date Birding Festival Location

Whooping Crane Festival Port Aransas, TX

Matagorda Bay Birdfest Palacios, TX

Spring Chirp Weslaco, TX

FeatherFest Galveston, TX

The Birdiest Festival in America Corpus Christi, TX

Balcones Canyonlands Songbird Festival near Marble Falls, TX

Birding the Border Del Rio, TX

Texas Mid-Coast Birding Festival Port Lavaca, TX

Davis Mnts Hummingbird Celebration Fort Davis, TX

Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza Lake Jackson, TX

HummerBird Celebration Rockport/Fulton, TX

Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival Harlingen, TX



If you're having trouble viewing this email, you can [see it online](#).



Birding with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is soaring to new heights in 2025 with TWO special offers.

First, you can unlock a special discount for their 2025 Virtual Birding Seminars. Don't miss this chance to expand your birding knowledge!

This year, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will offer three engaging **Virtual Birding Seminars** in the spring, summer, and fall. These seminars provide opportunities to deepen your knowledge of birding, research, conservation, and bird identification from the comfort of your home.

2025 Virtual Birding Seminars

Spring 2025: March 4th – Bird Behavior

Summer 2025: August 11th – 15th – Waterfowl Week

Fall 2025: November 19th – 20th – Backyard Bird Paradise

Your participation makes a difference! Funds raised from Virtual Birding Seminars directly support **Rio Diablo Birding Camp scholarships**, helping young birders experience this incredible learning opportunity.

LEARN MORE HERE

Second, for 2-weeks only they are offering the opportunity to get access to their VAULT of over 20 hours of Virtual Birding Seminars.

If you missed a class, or want a refresher, this is your chance.



BELIZE BIRDING BONANZA

NOV 2025
(EXACT DATES TBA)

Raptors galore & more!





Join TOS Past President Byron Stone for an exciting trip to Belize during peak raptor migration. This trip provides the opportunity to see over 200 species of birds, including 30 species of diurnal raptors. Participants will visit 4 locations throughout the country and explore the local food, culture, flora, and fauna.



Alamo Inn
B&B  Gear & Tours

- * 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 Accomodation
Tel. (956) 782-9912
alamoinn@gmail.com
www.AlamoInnBnB.com

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

Spring 2025 newsletter

GENERAL FUND

Lynn Barber
Michele Lutz & Family
Lynn Thompson
Michael & Janet Monahan
Jerry Connally

SANCTUARY FUND

Tami Grubb
Giving Tuesday 2024
Dennis Casserly
Giving Tuesday 2024
Susan McFarland (non-member)
Sabine Woods

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

Susan Haney
Chris Corpus
Tami Grubb
Matthew Creek

NEW MEMBERS

Greg Flurry & Family
Gaston del Pino Borgstrom & Family
Tracy Waldon
Rachel Dye
Kade Jackson
Coralie Rossbach

NEW MEMBERS (Cont.)

John Pike
Jim Morris
Wayne Dorchak
Arthur Smith
Lisa Finney
Ben DuBose
Britta Huckabee
Brian Stephan
Manda Hall
Deborah Bull
Tim Handren
Salvador Garza & Family
Joanna Friesen
Claude Durand
Pamella Hopper
Khloris Wren
Steven Fletcher
McCallin Fisher
Kevin Germer
Laura Hagan
Kerry Padilla
Keith Goodrum
Daniel Courtney
Jennifer OShea
Karen McCormick
Alan Gann

NEW MEMBERS (Cont.)

Bo Lassen Christiansen
& Eva Foss Henriksen
Marianna George
Gail Suberbielle
Kelly Martin
Lili Banta
Bill Hudgins
Kitty Coley & Family
Amy Carman
Nathan Wahler
Rebecca Posten
Kindred Hodge
Susan Hamilton
Brian Benscoter & Family
Sam Showalter & Family
Kishore Krishnamurthy
Andre Fadulu
Roy Freese & Family
James Buck & Family
Philip & Sheila Burgess
Lauri Gleaves & Family
Vicky Atkinson
Lily Bose
Denise Gary
Richard Watson & Family

Members of the TOS Board of Directors



Romey Swansons
President and Director at Large
Email: romei.TOS@gmail.com



Pamela Pipes
Vice President & Region 4—Trans-Pecos
Email: pspipes@gmail.com



Lorrie Mathers
Treasurer & Director at Large
Email: treasurer.texbirds@gmail.com



Byron Stone
Past President
Email: DrBirdie@aol.com



Ron Huebner
Region 2—North Central
Email: Feralbirder@gmail.com



Lynn Thompson
Secretary & Director at Large
Email: lynn.thompson1954@gmail.com



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



Kelly Smith
Secretary & Region 1—Panhandle
Email: australe88@gmail.com



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



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



Crystal Ledezma
Region 6—Coastal Prairie
Email: crystalledezma@gmail.com



Samantha Wolfe
Director Region 7—Rio Grande
Brushlands
Email: swolfe@manomet.org



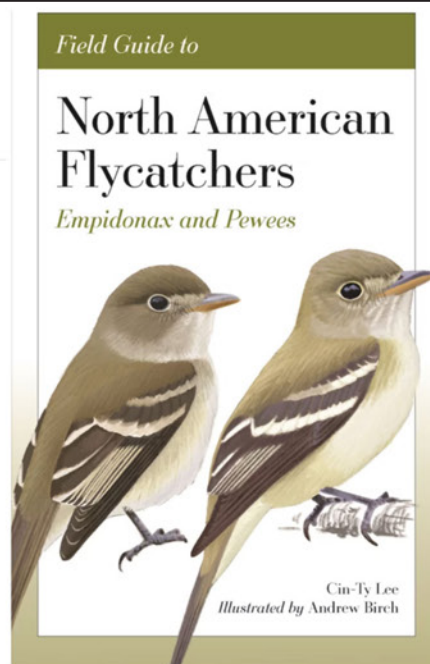
Kendra Kocab
Region 8—Central Prairie
Email: kenner7683@gmail.com

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

ISBN: 9780691240626

Published: Apr 4, 2023

Copyright: 2023

Pages: 168

Size: 5 x 8 in.


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

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

1-800-242-0071




**Rockport
Fulton**

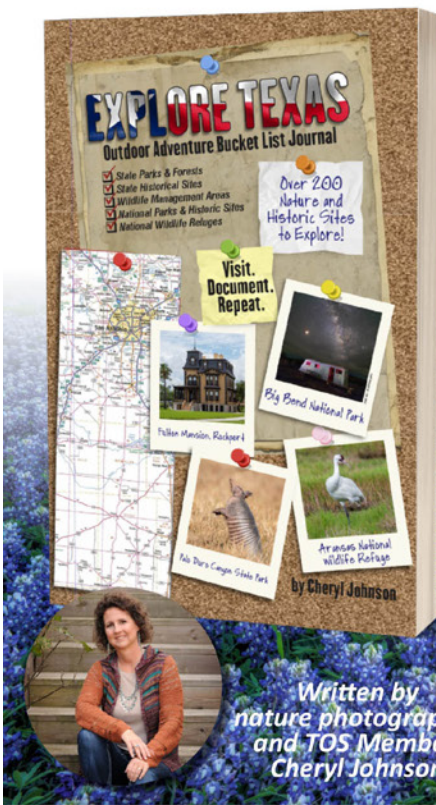
Charm of the Texas Coast

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