



Wimberley Birding Society

Promoting the watching, protecting and enjoying of birds in and around Wimberley, Texas and other locations.

WBS General meeting

February 26, 2024

70 participants (estimated head count)

Interesting bird sights reported from various members: Hutton's Vireos, Brown-headed Cowbirds, Eastern Bluebirds, Great Horned Owl, Chipping Sparrows, Purple Martins, Red Admiral (butterfly)

Guest speaker: W. Rufus Stephens and Jan Wrede Land Stewardship for Birds

When charismatic birds flourish so do many other creatures. Biodiversity – life at all scales, including individual organisms, populations and ecosystems. Habitat – this is where birds find the resources they need to raise their young.

What is Stewardship? Careful and responsible management of land entrusted to one's care. Birds' population has declined 29% over the past 50 years (3 Billion birds since 2019) Painted Buntings are down 30% and Lesser Goldfinches are down 50%. Birds can benefit from habitat improvements. Wildlife Tax exemption properties are trending upward (2017 it was 5,384,700 acres in Texas and outlook is higher for 2019 count). Private property owners can and are making a difference.

Steps to Stewardship for Birds: ID difference habitats. Quality – select 2 – 3 species per habitat (ie Summer Tanager who occupy the upper canopy of trees and Bewick's Wren who hang out in brush piles). Decide which practices you are going to do. Make Science-based decisions. Problems – predators and other dangerous animals. Deer Management. Cedar Management.

Tools – Brush Control. Make a Plan. Clear in phases.

Business Meeting:

Treasury report: not reported today

Bird City: Migratory Bird Day is May 11, 2024

PGR Workday (Butterfly Garden): March 15, 2024

Spring migration starts soon so everyone – turn outside lights off from 11:00pm – 6:00a

April 15 – Tax Day Birding Classic: Jesse isn't able to organize or lead; looking for volunteer to take over.

Jesse Huth – trips:

1. First Tuesday of each month (if Jesse is not traveling)
2. Feb 5 – 9 Duluth, Minnesota to see Great Gray Owl, Boreal Owl
3. Feb 20 – 25 Rio Grande Valley to catch migratory rarities
4. Apr 26 – May 1 High Island, maybe a fallout!
5. May 3 – 12 SE Arizona Hummingbirds and more
6. May 15 – 21 Magee Marsh, OH and Grayling MI to catch 20+ warblers (Kirkland's)
7. May 23 – Jun 1 SE Arizona Hummingbirds and more
8. Jun 5 – 12 Saskatchewan, Canada
9. July 8 – 15 Colorado Summer for Gunnison Sage Grouse
10. Aug 25 – Sept 2 SE Hummingbirds and more
11. Sept 4 – 13 California for Island Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie
12. Oct 16 – 24 Haw

Next Regular meeting is TBD