



Monthly FWAS Report

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President's Pen & Programs

Please join us for our last meeting of the 2016 – 2017 season on Thursday, May 11, 2017. We know that many of you look forward to getting to relax and enjoy pictures taken by our members, not to mention the food and fellowship that goes along with our annual members “slide show” meeting. Jim Jones once again is spending many hours organizing the pictures we send him into a Power Point presentation for enjoyment. As usual, we’ll be having a pot-luck snack/dinner time starting at 6:45 p.m. instead of the usual bird ID session (the slide show itself will not begin until 7:30). If you have not already planned to do so, please consider bringing a snack or casserole or some food item along with you to share at the meeting. FWAS will provide drinks (water, coffee, and tea), plastic-ware, paper plates, bowls, and cups. Feel free to bring any other type of non-alcoholic beverage for yourself if you wish. Besides the slide show, we’ll also be taking care of some FWAS Board business, namely the announcement and election of new board members for the 2017 – 2018 season. We wish to also remind you that we take the summer off, so the next member meeting will not be held until Thursday, September 14, 2017.

If you’ll remember from the last newsletter, I wrote about the need to have our voices heard in the legislative process so we can preserve funding for the protection of our natural resources that birds need to survive. I’m happy to announce that as of last week, the U. S. House of Representatives and Senate voted to fund the government for the rest of the 2017 fiscal year, which is good news for birds and conservation. This budget left out riders that were dangerous to the environment, and is a much better bill compared to the original budget the White House proposed in March – the one that threatened to cut funding our most cherished environmental concerns. Basically, the final spending agreement for the rest of the fiscal year will provide strong funding for important conservation programs. This success was only possible thanks to your support and the tens of thousands of Audubon members who took action in the last two months to protect birds and the places they need. I know you’ll agree that it’s up to us to carry on the work of preservation so we can make sure our children, (their children, and so on) are able to enjoy the natural world that should be their inheritance. To that end, we’ll have to be more vigilant than ever and I wish to make FWAS a means of helping spread the word.

I’d love to visit with you in person at our meetings, or “online” at take5birder@charter.net, or call/text me at (817) 965-7284. Warmest regards, Michael Francis, President, FWAS.

Membership

If you haven't renewed your membership for the year or wish to join, you have some options. If you are coming to the meeting, simply bring your checkbook and save the postage – our membership chair Glenda Keilstrup will be on hand to collect your renewal dues. The amount is \$25.00 for a single membership, and \$35.00 for a family membership. If you prefer to use a credit card, you'll need to do that online as we do not have a way to process credit transactions otherwise. Simply go to www.fwas.org and look for the “Join FWAS/Membership Options/Pay Now” section on the left side of our Homepage to get started.

Field Trips

Longhollow Ranch & Brown Property Fieldtrip May 27

Please join Jim Jones for our annual field trip to Longhollow Ranch and the Brown Property near Glen Rose, TX, on May 27, 2017. The Brown Property is a recognized International Global Important Bird Area. Targeted species are the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo, and hopefully the Ash-throated Flycatcher. Jim has led this trip for almost 14 years and has always been successful in locating and viewing the warbler and vireo species. Trip length will be approximately 8 hour including most of the travel time. Trip is limited to 20 participants, so an RSVP to Jim (E-mail jim_jones@fwas.org or call/text 817- 915-6089) is mandatory. Those who wish to carpool from the Fort Worth area, please meet Jim at 6:30 a.m. at the Dutch Branch Park Athletic Complex in Benbrook on HWY 377 and Winscott Road. If you wish to meet us at Longhollow Ranch (must be there by 7:50 a.m.), let Jim know and he will send directions. Our generous hosts at the Longhollow Ranch allow us to use their facilities, and from there, we'll drive over to the Brown Property to bird from 8:15 to noon. We return to the Longhollow Ranch for our lunch and more birding. For more information, please check out the following link on our Website: <http://www.fwas.org/showthread.php?2906-Longhollow-Ranch-amp-Brown-Property-Fieldtrip-Saturday-May-27-2017>

Miscellaneous

FWAS Spring Bird Count Results

Chuck Baskin, Bird Count Chair for FWAS, reports the following results for our recent Spring Bird Count: Twenty-nine birders braved threatened storms and very high winds on Saturday, April 29 for our annual Spring Migration Bird Count. The high winds made finding many birds difficult so the numbers of individuals for most species were below average. However, we were pleasantly surprised with a total of 143 different species of birds recorded for the day, which was high considering the conditions and low turnout of birders. One factor may be that water levels in lakes and ponds have dropped back to normal this year so many species of shorebirds were spotted that we have not seen in a couple of years because of flooding. Thanks to all of the participants for their efforts, and please consider joining us in December for the 2017 Christmas Bird Count (we'll announce a date at the start of the 2017 – 2018 season in September).