



Monthly FWAS Report

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President's Pen

We just received the check for North Texas Giving Day (September 14, 2017), and this year it is \$1,539.72, every bit of which we are using to fund our annual community grants. Please see the "Grants" section below for details on the qualifications, how to get our grant form, and the deadline for application. This year we had 30 donors, so we are right in the middle of the low of 28 and high of 32 since we started participating in 2014. We are also in the middle of the range of donation amounts from a low of \$1,380 to a high of \$1,700. On behalf of the entire FWAS board of directors, I want to thank you all for making this such a success. We are thrilled with the results, especially in light of all the need that was out there this year.

At our last monthly member meeting in October with Victor Emanuel as our guest speaker, Victor reminded us of why we spend time outdoors studying birds and enjoying nature – eloquently describing what it does for our mind, body and spirit. He also mentioned his favorite books by naturalists that we were asked to publish online and in our newsletter so members had a chance to look these up for themselves. So, here is Victor's list of his favorite books on nature (in no particular order): Halle, Louis, "Spring in Washington", 1947; Kaufman, Kenn, "Kingbird Highway", 1999; Leopold, Aldo, "A Sand County Almanac", 1949; Peterson, Roger Tory, "Birds Over America", 1948; Peterson, Roger Tory and James Fisher, "Wild America", 1955; Weidensaul, Scott, "Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds", 1999; Matthiessen, Peter, "The Snow Leopard", 1978; Matthiessen, Peter, "The Tree Where Man Was Born", 1972. I've personally read most of these books and could not possibly improve upon it. If you haven't read one, you owe it to yourself to check out a copy at your local library, download a copy, or simply pick one up at your favorite bookstore.

Our last monthly meeting also highlighted issues we have with our sound system. I hope that everyone will be pleased to know that board member Jim Jones researched a new system, the board approved the recommendation, and that it has now been ordered. As such, we should have it on hand and in operation for the December member meeting. To make this even sweeter, former FWAS president Martin Mattingly gave me a check for the full amount of this new system as a donation to FWAS. I will be forever indebted to this man who it has been a pleasure to call my friend for many a year – thank you Martin!

As always, I'd love to visit with you in person, at our meetings, or 'online' at take5birder@charter.net – you can even call/text me at 817-965-7284. Warmest regards,
Michael Francis, President, FWAS.

Programs

November Member Meeting Thursday, 11/9/2017

Join us on Thursday, November 9th for a presentation by Bob and Vickie Moore on Hummingbirds of Ecuador and Columbia. Ecuador and Columbia have more than 160 hummingbird species with habitats ranging from sea level to over 14,000 in elevation. Bob and Vicki have traveled to both countries several times and will give us the benefit of their identification information, fascinating stories of their habits and preferred habitats. These hummingbird species include Thorntails, Hermits, Woodstars, Emeralds, Sapphires, Sunangles and many more. Also, be sure to take advantage of asking Bob and Vicki their tips on getting to and from and around these countries as well as picking guides there.

December Member Meeting, Thursday, 12/14/2017

Join us on Thursday, December 14, when Jim Jones will give a long asked for presentation to share his knowledge about the equipment selection available to enhance our bird watching experience. The discussion will include optics (binoculars and spotting scopes), photography (DSLRs and digi-scoping), audio (recorders and hearing-enhancement), and digital bird identification resources (desktop/smartphone software and on-line). Jim asks that our more experienced members take part by sharing what works for them. Bring in your favorite optics to allow others to sample. Jim will set up target items to let folks see the differences in magnification, light and field-of-view.

For general information about our meetings and directions to our meeting location, please check the following link to the FWAS Website: <http://www.fwas.org/showthread.php?4-Monthly-Meetings>

Field Trips

Birding Arlington's Kelley Park Nov. 10

FWAS For all the retirees and those off on Friday! Join FWAS board member Chuck Baskin and others as they search for birds at Kelley Park on Friday, November 10, 2017 starting at 8:30 a.m. This is an easy walk on paved paths along Rush Creek. Kelley Park is located at 4195 W. Arkansas Ln., Arlington, 76013. We'll meet in the parking lot at the dead end of Creekside. From Arkansas Ln., turn north onto Woodside, then go east on Creekside and drive to the dead end where we'll park. For more info contact Chuck via E-mail at chuckbaskin@sbcglobal.net or by cell phone 817-718-5642

Birding Burleson's Bailey Lake Nov. 18

FWAS board member Jean Ferguson is leading an hour walk at Bailey Lake in Burleson (sponsored by Wild Birds Unlimited of Burleson) on Saturday, November 18. The address is 280 W. Hidden Creek Pkwy., Burleson. A major portion of trail is cement and handicap accessible. The path has open spots, water, large trees, some areas shaded with heavy trees, and some areas have dirt (mostly level) paths. This is an under-birded area with lots of possibilities.

We will walk north of the lake where you'll find less people and varied habitat. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot area – no RSVP is required.

Oliver Park, December 2, 2017

Jean Ferguson is leading half day of birding around this lovely park. More details will be coming late November, so keep checking back on this link to the FWAS Website for all the details: <http://www.fwas.org/showthread.php?2993-Oliver-Park-Arlington-12-2-17>

Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC), December 16, 2017

While not technically a field trip, we do need volunteers to help with the annual National Audubon Christmas Bird Count (CBC). FWAS is holding its Fort Worth section of the CBC on Saturday, December 16. If you'd like to participate, please contact our Bird Counts Chairman, Chuck Baskin, by E-mailing him at chuckbaskin@sbcglobal.net, or calling/texting him at 817-457-3582.

Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge January 6, 2018

Departure time from Ft. Worth area to be determined after participants RSVP
Leader: Jim Jones – RSVP to jim_jones@fwas.org (preferred) or cell # 817-915-6089
Limited to 15 Participants / RSVP Required (see above) / Carpooling will be encouraged

Join Jim Jones for a winter field trip to Hagerman Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. The refuge was established in 1946 as an overlay of a portion of the Big Mineral arm of Lake Texoma. The refuge provides 12,000+ acres. During the winter there are many species of waterfowl including views of over 10,000 geese in one field (or in a large floating raft of white just off the shoreline road.) If you are on TexBirds forum or follow eBird reports, you know that a weekly Tuesday Morning tour routinely lists 60 to 74 species. Besides the waterfowl we may also find Pileated and Red-headed Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, and possibly a LeConte's sparrow.

This is a one day trip. The refuge is located about 90 miles north of the metroplex. We would like to arrive at the refuge by 8 a.m. which means the group should depart the Fort Worth area by 6:45 a.m. We will bird through the morning, have a lunch, then continue for perhaps another hour if the group feels up to it. Most of the refuge is done by car, frequently stopping to view wildlife. There is one trail I like to take (past Dead Woman's Pond) to find woodpeckers and nuthatches.

NOTE: When we are on the property we will carpool to reduce the number of vehicles driving around. The number of vehicles will be reduced further if I can get Jack Chiles to join us. Jack can get us access to the southern part of the property (behind the locked gate) and he can drive one of the refuge's 9-passenger vans.

When you RSVP, please supply a mobile phone number, what part of the metroplex you are driving from, and if you want to volunteer to drive. From past experience we find it best if we limit the number of vehicles to four. If you share a ride, please remember to share gas costs with your driver. We will also arrange for getting a radio in each car. After we receive the RSVPs, we will decide the best (and safest) car-pool meeting point and coordinate a plan.

Please dress for the weather. If it is cold and windy, the shore drive can feel 10 degrees colder! Also wear sturdy walking shoes for the trails. We won't be wading anywhere, but there is a chance of puddles and heavy morning dew. Bring a lunch, water / beverages, and snacks.

Hummingbird Excursion to Ecuador February 2018

FWAS is going to Ecuador! This hummingbird focused trip is a short 5 day/4 night “relaxed” tour. We will have someone assigned to us with guided birding 6-11am, lunch/free time on our own and 3-6pm guided. If others are walking the trails and you don't want to- relax, bird from the porch or in the garden-maybe an extra paid side trip to learn about orchids, Andean coffee/chocolate or cooking. They also have night walks (added) and tons of trails (free) if you want to do more birding. Hummingbirds are the stars here with 65 different species in Ecuador. Contact Ann Hoover at ahoov@sbcglobal.net or cell # 817-798-6888 to join or for more detailed information. When you sign up, let me know if you do not want the group travel-see below for trip details. There are over 1,200 possible species of birds, 65 species of Hummingbirds, wildlife, 15 waterfalls, ponds, rivers, wild orchids, butterflies and diverse flora and fauna, we offer the best options for birdwatchers, photographers and naturalists.

Itinerary for February 1-6, 2018:

Day One – Evening airport transfer to San Jorge Eco-Lodge/Quito; overnight San Jorge/Quito Lodge, no meals included (must arrive at airport by 8:00 p.m.)

Day Two – Guided Hummingbird tour at San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary (feeders, gardens, ponds, trail hikes & surroundings), Canopy Islands Bird & Wildlife Photography Center at San Jorge de Tandayapa Hummingbird Sanctuary (designed and newly built for optimal hummingbird and bird photography), overnight at San Jorge/Tandayapa, includes 3 meals (dine at our open air hummingbird restaurant surrounded by feeders),

Day Three – Guided San Tadeo feeders & Amaguza Reserve, overnight San Jorge/Milpe Forest Lodge, includes 3 meals (boxed lunches).

Day Four – Guided Hummingbirds at San Jorge de Milpe Orchid and Bird Reserve feeders, gardens, trail hikes & surroundings (upper tropical rainforest), later afternoon transfer to San Jorge/Quito, overnight San Jorge/Quito, includes 3 meals.

Day Five – Morning Guided hummingbirds at San Jorge Eco-Lodge & Botanical Reserve/Quito feeders & gardens, continue on to Yanacocha Reserve, keep same room until evening airport transfer to Quito Airport for 12 a.m. flight on February 6th, includes 3 meals.

Recurring Monthly FWAS Birding/Nature Walks

- Join FWAS member Jim Sipiora for his monthly outing to the Village Creek Drying Beds in Arlington – see [http://www.fwas.org/showthread.php?2425-Birding-at-the-Beds-\(VCDB\)](http://www.fwas.org/showthread.php?2425-Birding-at-the-Beds-(VCDB)) for details.
- Join Jean Ferguson for her monthly outing at Foster Park in southwest Fort Worth – see <http://www.fwas.org/showthread.php?129-Birding-in-the-Park-at-Foster-Park-in-Ft-Worth> for details.

Grants

FWAS Community Civic Grant Process 2017 - 2018

Does your civic organization (or school) birding or bird habitat conservation related project need money for materials and supplies? Or are you an Educator going for training about birding or bird habitat conservation? If so, the Fort Worth Audubon Society (FWAS) can help! See if the following qualifications describe your group:

- Would you describe your organization or group as civic, non-profit, or school-based?
- Is your project based in FWAS region (Denton, Johnson, Parker or Tarrant counties)?
- Can your project support the intent of the FWAS mission statement? *FWAS mission statement – to promote awareness, appreciation and understanding of birds and other wildlife while preserving and protecting their natural habitats.*

If your group meets the above qualifications and could use up to \$400 of grant money, please fill out our grant application form (see 2nd page of the PDF form on our Website using the following link: <http://www.fwas.org/pdfs/GrantApp2017-18.pdf>) and submit it to the Fort Worth Audubon Society, Attention Grant Chairman, 3023 South University Drive, Suite 206, Fort Worth, TX 76109.

Application deadline for 2017-2018 grant season is February 15, 2018. Grant awards will be made by March 15, 2018. For more information about this offer, please email grants@FWAS.org. When your group has completed your project, FWAS requests a short follow-up report with photos.

Membership

We know it can be confusing, and one day we might change this, but our annual membership dues run from January through December of the year while our seasons run from September through May. If you wish to join or renew, the amount is \$25.00 for a single membership and \$35.00 for a family membership. 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" section on the left side of our Homepage and click on the Pay Now button to get started. If you wish to send us a check the old-fashioned way, go to the same section of our Homepage, but look below the Pay Now button where there is a link to our printable mail-in form.