



## Monthly FWAS Report

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### President's Pen

Well, wouldn't you know it? Another year has come and almost gone. I'm so proud of all the great programs we've had for our meetings, the grant money we've been able to bestow upon worthwhile area conservation projects, the increase in field trips and birding walks, the participation in bird counts, and so much volunteer effort that your FWAS board and like-minded FWAS members have put in on behalf of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, River Legacy Science Center, Tandy Hills, Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Audubon Texas, and local schools (I'm sure I'm missing a few as well).

To keep this going, I need to ask for you to renew your membership with FWAS for the 2018 calendar year since our memberships run January 1 through December 31. 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](http://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 renew the old-fashioned way, please make a check payable to FWAS, and send it to our treasurer Vickie Moore in care of FWAS at 3023 S. University Dr. #206 Fort Worth, TX 76109.

I should also alert you to the fact that it is not too late to volunteer 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, and we can still use more volunteers. If you'd like to participate, please contact our Bird Counts Chairman, Chuck Baskin, by E-mailing him at [chuckbaskin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chuckbaskin@sbcglobal.net), or calling/texting him at 817-457-3582.

As always, I'd love to visit with you in person, at our meetings, or 'online' at [take5birder@charter.net](mailto:take5birder@charter.net) – you can even call/text me at 817-965-7284. Until next time, I'll leave you with this quote from Austrian conductor, composer and pianist Paul Felix Weingartner (1863 – 1942), "*Hold out in this entangled world! I myself will do what I can, too. We must keep high the banner which has been handed to us...be it for pleasure or be it for obstinacy...until the great call comes which says we have done our duty.*"

Warmest regards, Michael Francis, President of FWAS.

## Programs

### **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.

### **January 2018 Member Meeting, Thursday, 1/11/2018**

*Subject:* Birding in Mexico

*Featured speaker:* Brock Huffman

Details will be posted on our Website and in upcoming correspondence.

For more information on this and all future meetings, 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

### **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](mailto:jim_jones@fwas.org) (preferred) or cell # 817-915-6089

Limited to 15 Participants / RSVP Required (see above) / Carpooling will be encouraged

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.

### **Clear Fork Trinity River, Sunday, January 21, 2018**

The Trinity Bird Count seeks to inventory the various bird species that use the Metroplex stretch of the Trinity River in order to inform bird habitat conservation and management along the river. Since 2011, birders have shared observations for more than 250 bird species!

This project welcomes participation from everyone, from novices to seasoned birders. Individual observations from solo birding are welcome, and guided groups counts are a great way for beginners to get involved. For more information, including a map of count areas and how to share your observations via eBird, please visit the Trinity Bird Count page through the following link: <http://tx.audubon.org/citizen-science/trinity-bird-count>

*Upcoming Guided Count:* Sunday, January 21, 2018 from 8:00 – 10:00 a.m.

*Meeting Place:* Meet between 7:30 – 8:00 a.m. for coffee at the Starbucks at Trinity Commons (3000 S Hulen St., #143, Fort Worth, TX 76109). We will park on Bellaire near the bridge crossing the river and walk along the paved trail (Fort Worth Trinity Trails) along the river to just under the Chisholm Trail Parkway bridge.

*Team Leader:* RSVP to Tom Haase at 817-229-4987 (call/text) or E-mail [tom.haase@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tom.haase@sbcglobal.net) to let him know whether you will meet him at Starbucks or on the trail.

### **Hummingbird Excursion to Ecuador, February 1 – 6, 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](mailto: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.

### **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](mailto:grants@FWAS.org). When your group has completed your project, FWAS requests a short follow-up report with photos.