

## Wimberley Birding Society Meeting

August 18, 2017

President Susan Evans opened the meeting at 9:00 a. m. with a welcome to everyone including new members and guests. This meeting was rescheduled from its usual time of 10:00 a.m. so members could get outdoors in time to observe the partial eclipse. Approximately 57 members were present.

Lin Weber introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Tania Homayoun, the Urban Conservation Program Manager with Audubon Texas and director of its Urban Conservation Program. The topic of her program was "Birds and Climate Change: Audubon's Climate Initiative". She explained that birds are excellent indicators of ecosystem health, and new research using decades of data from Audubon's Christmas Bird Count and the Breeding Bird Survey suggest that more than half of US birds are at risk from climate change. She provided a wealth of information about Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report, the vital role of citizen science in this study, and the tools and models helping guide bird conservation into an uncertain climate future.

President Evans opened the business meeting with a call for approval of the minutes from the May meeting. The minutes were approved with a unanimous vote.

President Evans solicited a volunteer for the position of Programs Chairman due to the resignation of Lin Weber. Programs have been planned through the February quarterly meeting.

Linda Gawkoski presented the Treasurer's report in the absence of Nan Perkins. With a previous balance of \$9,177.07, we had a total of \$218.03 in expenses. Generous donations were received in memory of the late Billy Wofford which resulted in our current balance of \$9,184.83.

President Evans announced the resignation of Nan Perkins as Treasurer. Sandy Wallace was nominated as the new treasurer. Jane Little moved to approve Ms. Wallace. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Bob Currie, our PGR coordinator, stated that the construction of the rainwater collection system is on hold pending finalization of the architecture plan and adequate volunteer assistance. President Evans announced October 21 as the primary and October 28 as rain dates for Refuge maintenance.

President Evans announced September 7, 6:30 p.m., will be our "swift night out". She invited everyone to bring chairs as well as their favorite snack and beverage of choice to the PGR to enjoy while waiting for swifts to come to the PGR chimney to roost.

Lynne Schaffer announced that Jim Rodgers volunteered to fill feeders in place of Don Perkins. She also requested volunteers to substitute in the absence of those who fill the feeders on a regular basis.

Lin Weber reported that 18 people were hosted by Paul and Georgean Kyle on August 5 at the Travis Audubon Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary. Eighteen chimney swift towers dot the property as well as a large roost that regularly hosts hundreds of chimney swifts. The group observed many chimney swifts in flight and watched video of the couple roosting in a tower.

Dell Hood reported that 15 people went to Central Oregon's High Lava Plains on a circular route around the Cascade Mountains to study the area's natural history including Three Sisters and Broken Top, young volcanoes. Individual species counts ranged from 57 to 99; among them were American dipper, Pygmy, White-breasted and Red-breasted nuthatches; Black-backed, White-headed, and Lewis's woodpeckers, and White-throated and Vaux's swifts. A highlight was the visit to the High Desert Museum near Bend, with excellent displays on the natural and cultural history of the area.

Lynne Schaffer announced the upcoming trip to Costa Rica in February 2018. She advised members to notify her as soon as possible to sign up for the trip.

Linda Gawkoski explained the “Trips Committee” concept. The committee will be the clearing house of future trips ensuring the trips answer the members wishes based on the February survey. The committee will invite volunteers to plan trips. Scheduling of trip should not conflict with other WBS activities including quarterly meetings. There will be one “short/local” (1-3 days; Texas and nearby states) trip per month; and, 2 “long” trips (7-14 days; USA and international) per year. The committee will provide planning guidelines to volunteers and suggest options for trips. Once trips have been approved by the committee, they will be posted on [www.wimbirds.org](http://www.wimbirds.org) at which time members may contact the planner to reserve their place on the trip.

Mary Gilroy was invited to briefly address the issue of the potential of a border wall to be built through the Santa Ana National wildlife refuge. The proposed wall could span 3 miles through the refuge and consist of a concrete base and 18-foot high fencing on top permanently altering the landscape to the detriment of wildlife. Scott Nicol of the Sierra Club Borderlands Team has provided a postcard with text opposing the construction through the Refuge. Postcards were passed out to members to sign and send to Senator John Cornyn (critical Senator in the process).

President Evans adjourned the meeting at 10:50 and encouraged attendees to go the library area to observe the partial solar eclipse.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gawkoski  
Secretary