

## Wimberley Birding Society Meeting

February 19, 2018

President Susan Evans opened the meeting with a welcome to all attendees including new members and guests. She asked attendees what birds they had seen recently. Cinnamon teal, red naped sapsucker, red breasted nuthatch, north American dipper, sand hill cranes, and elegant trogon were reported.

Tom Duncan introduced program speaker, Steve Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman founded HawkWatch International (HWI), a not-for-profit with a mission to study and conserve hawks, eagles and other birds of prey in western North America. He served as Director of Bird Conservation for Audubon Pennsylvania, and then as Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania until 2016. He now lives in Bozeman, MT. Steve has authored many papers and book chapters on raptors and other wildlife-related topics, and has given hundreds of presentations on raptors. The title of his program was "Veracruz River of Raptors, World's Largest Raptor Migration".

President Evans opened the business meeting with a call for approval of the minutes from the November 2018 meeting. The minutes were posted in the [www.wimbirds.org](http://www.wimbirds.org) web site for membership review. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. They were approved with a unanimous vote.

Sandy Wallace provided the treasury report. There were expenditures of \$895.69 and Income of \$205, leaving a balance of \$5925.28.

Bob Currie reported that PGR workday will be April 7 with rain date of April 14. He reported that Larry Calvert helped repair the leak at the rainwater collection system and that Art Crow will help cut down dead trees. Mulch is needed to refresh the trails at the refuge.

Linda Gawkoski reported that 8 people attended the Sparrows 101 class taught by Jesse Huth on December 16, 2017. Jesse provided a comprehensive review of sparrows by genus, species, habitat, size, unique characteristics, etc. He gave a comparison of birds that look and act like sparrows but aren't. Chipping and house sparrows were seen at the PGR bird blind after the class. Linda recommended others take the class when the opportunity is presented.

Jesse Huth reported on the trip to Granger Lake, January 19-20. Seven people participated. The activities began at Friendship on Granger Lake where sparrows were in abundance. There were also meadow larks, cardinals, red-shouldered hawk, blue birds, etc. The group also explored the fields in the area seeking the mountain plover reported for the area which they saw just before ending the adventure on Saturday morning. Among the other birds seen were many Harris hawks, American and Sprague's Pipits.

Susan Zimmerman reported that 14 people participated in the "Birding the Lower Rio Grande Valley" trip February 6 to 9, 2018. A total of 99 species were seen on the visit to Estero Llano Grande State Park, Sabal Palm Sanctuary, Santa Ana NWR, Oliviera City Park in Brownsville, and Bentsen State Park. Some of the birds seen included red crowned Parrot, Ringed Kingfisher, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Altamira Oriole, Common Pauraque, White-tipped Dove, Black Phoebe, Olive Sparrow, etc.

Alice LeDuc reviewed the details for the upcoming trip to Portal, Arizona, May 23-29, 2018. There is still room for more people.

Diane Lunow invited attendees to visit her property on April 24 for spring birding. She requested a list of birds observed on that date.

Sandy Wallace reviewed the September Road Scholar trip to Monterey Bay California. Downpayments are due March 1. This will be a charter trip if enough WBS participants commit. Contact Road Scholar to submit payment and make reservations.

President Evans announced the upcoming Wimberley Birding Classic scheduled for April 16. Jesse Huth is chairman of this event and he asked members who are interested in participating to contact him and put their name on the sign up sheet.

President Evans announced that the "Backyard Bird Count" ends today. Post your counts before end of day. Jaci Kroupa introduced the owner of the new Wild Birds Unlimited shop in Dripping Springs. He offered a discount to participants in the Backyard Bird Count.

President Evans announced that the WBS annual salad supper will be May 22 at the Blue Hole Pavilion at 5:00 p.m. Everyone should bring a salad or dessert and drink.

President Evans invited attendees to join at Milagro's for lunch immediately after the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Gawkoski  
Secretary  
Wimberley Birding Society