



Rolling Plains Chapter NEWSLETTER

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<http://txmn.org/rollingplains>

January 2023

The Rolling Plains Chapter partners with River Bend Nature Center and Wild Bird Rescue, Inc. in Wichita Falls; Lake Arrowhead State Park in Clay County; Copper Breaks State Park in Hardeman Count.; Whiteside Museum of Natural History in Seymour; and Comanche Springs Astronomy Campus in Crowell. Our Chapter covers Archer, Baylor, Clay, Foard, Hardeman, Jack, Montague, Wichita, Wilbarger, and Young Counties.

JANUARY 3: Rolling Plains Chapter Meeting - 7:00pm at MSU's Bolin Science Hall, room 209. If you would prefer to attend via Zoom, watch for the link to the meeting in your email. Either way, I hope you will join us.

The program: Learn about the human history of North Texas.

VT JANUARY 1: First day Hikes at LASP
Hike#1: 9:00-10:00, and Hike#2: 1-2 Help with visitors at Lake Arrowhead State Park's First Day hikes. Be sure to wear your name badge.

AT JANUARY 10: TMNTuesday 12:00 (noon)-1:00 pm You can find more information at <https://txmn.tamu.edu/tmntuesdays>. You may watch this webinar live or its recording at a later date (as long as it is watched within the



Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. I don't know about you, but I am ready to get back into a routine.

So, getting back to things, we have a couple of reminders. First, your dues are due this month. Please see Kevin Seager to get those paid - \$15 for individuals and \$25 for a couple. (Or you can mail your dues to: Kevin Seager, 5328 Waterford Drive, Wichita Falls, TX 76310). While you are giving Kevin your money, he also has a few Home & Garden Show tickets available. (If you want tickets, please email or call Kevin so he can be sure to have enough for everyone.)

Secondly, please update and record your 2022 hours as soon as possible. The State office will be logging in to get numbers soon and we want to be up to date.

Now that the reminders are done, I wish you all a **WILD 2023!** But not like the past few months with stress, and sickness and craziness, but....

- More time in the **WILD** of our own backyards and beyond.
 - More **WILD** sounds of birds, breezes and bugs (but not the pesky kind), and don't forget the frogs!
 - More time to stop and smell the **WILD**flowers.
 - More plants, animals and insects observed in their own **WILD** habitats.
 - More learning about the **WILD** around us and more sharing of that knowledge.
- Most of all, I wish you all more **PEACE** in the **WILD**.

One way to get wild in 2023 is to kick off the year with Ranger L at one of the **First Day Hikes at Lake Arrowhead State Park**. The early birds start at 9:00 am at the Dragonfly Trail and those who want to sleep in can hike the North Onion Creek Trail at 1:00 pm.



I look forward to another great year with the Rolling Plains Chapter. There are great things on the horizon and I hope this will be a **WILD** year!

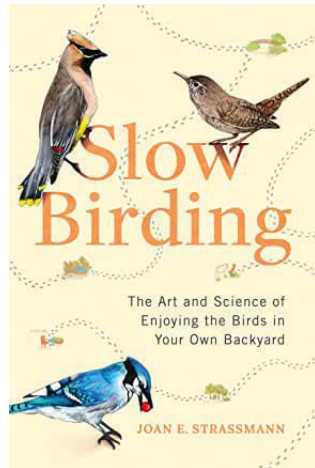
—Laura

calendar year it was recorded).

VT JANUARY 13:
Texas Stream Team Water Testing 9:00-10:00 Water testing will be conducted at Lake Wichita and the Wichita River. Meet at the Lake Wichita boat ramp at 9 am. To reach the parking lot, travel south on Kemp Blvd. The entrance to the ramp is on your right, just before you get to the State Hospital (on opposite side of road). Participants will then travel to Lucy Park to the Wichita River site. This event will be held the second Friday of each month, unless noted otherwise.

VT JANUARY 14:
Bird Outing at LASP 8:00-10:00 Join Penny Miller, other members and guests at Lake Arrowhead State Park for a bird outing. Look for and identify birds found at the park. This is a leisurely hike on level ground (handicap accessible). Binoculars helpful, but not required.

Editor's Pick



Slow Birding: The Art and Science of Enjoying the Birds in Your Own Backyard
by Joan E. Strassmann
ISBN-13:978-0593329924
\$24.30 on Amazon

A one-of-a-kind guide to birding locally that encourages readers to slow down and notice the spectacular birds all around them.

Many birders travel far and wide to popular birding destinations to catch sight of rare or “exotic” birds. In *Slow Birding*, evolutionary biologist *Joan E. Strassmann* introduces readers to the joys of birding right where they are.

In this inspiring guide to the

art of slow birding, Strassmann tells colorful stories of the most common birds to be found in the United States—birds we often see but might not have considered deeply before. For example, northern cardinals thrive in the city, where they are free from predators. White brows on a male white-throated sparrow indicate that he is likely to be a philanderer. This essential guide to the fascinating world of common, everyday birds features:

- detailed portraits of individual bird species and the scientists who have discovered and observed them

- advice and guidance on what to look for when slow birding, so that you can uncover clues to the reasons behind specific bird behaviors
- bird-focused activities that will open your eyes more to the fascinating world of birds

Slow Birding is the perfect guide for the birder looking to appreciate the beauty of the birds right in their own backyard, observing keenly how their behaviors change from day to day and season to season.



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