

NATURALIST NEWS

Raise an umbrella
on April!

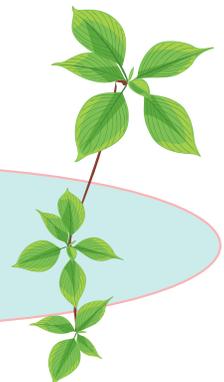


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- * See upcoming events
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- * Watch videos

*Look deep into nature and then you
will understand everything better
~Einstein~*



NATURALIST NEWS –TEXAS MASTER NATURALIST, ELM FORK CHAPTER

APRIL 2014

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 4

Our vision. . .in our community, Elm Fork Chapter of the Texas Master Naturalist program will be recognized as a primary source of information, education and service to support natural resources and natural areas today and in the future.



Sharp-shinned or Cooper's?

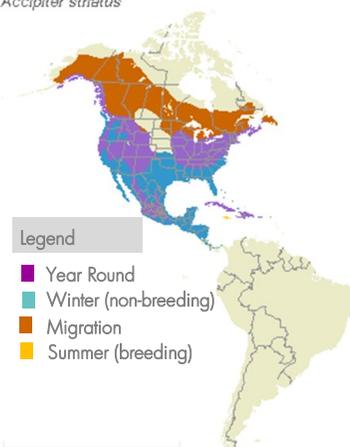
A tiny hawk that appears in a blur of motion—and often disappears in a flurry of feathers. That's the **Sharp-shinned Hawk**, the smallest hawk in North America and a daring, acrobatic flier. These raptors have distinctive proportions: long legs, short wings, and very long tails, which they use for navigating their deep-woods homes at top speed in pursuit of songbirds and mice. They're easiest to spot in fall on their southward migration, or occasionally at winter feeders.

Photo courtesy Alex Lieban



Sharp-shinned Hawk *Accipiter striatus* Juvenile Sharp-shinned

Cooper's Hawks are a larger species, but males and females differ so much in size that this character alone is rarely enough. Remember that Cooper's Hawks tend to be more common breeders in suburban areas, whereas Sharp-shinned Hawks nest almost exclusively in conifers and heavily wooded areas; you'll see them in neighborhoods typically only in winter. Cooper's Hawks have larger heads than Sharp-shinned, and in flight the head usually projects well beyond the leading edge of the wings. Also look for the Cooper's rounded tail; when folded the outer feathers are usually shorter than the central ones. Adult Cooper's Hawks have a dark cap and pale back of the neck, whereas



Map by Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Range data by NatureServe

www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/sharp-shin_hawk

Sharp-shinned Hawks have a dark cap and nape. Immature Cooper's Hawks have neat brown streaks concentrated on the chest, whereas immature Sharp-shinned Hawks have broad, blurry streaks that go well down onto the belly. Cooper's Hawk also has thicker legs and larger feet—this can be a great clue when looking at perched birds up close.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Don't miss a single regular meeting—wonderful programs coming up!
- ◆ Projects getting back to work
- ◆ Feature articles to keep all aware of what nature offers

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Van's Views

I have had the privilege of visiting several active chapter projects since taking office and I could write an epistle about what I have seen, heard and learned.

- The Clear Creek revival is going well with Dave Rowley, Sherrill Campbell and Cheryl Kesterson leading the charge.
- John and Adelaide Bodnar, Val Beardsley, Larry Brennan and Vin Merrill have made many improvements to the nest box management program at LLELA.
- Trophy Club, one of our newer programs, is going great with programs and implementing a Blue Bird Nest Box program. Kathy Trotter and Veronica Ruangskul are leading the way there.
- LISDOLA is rocking and has been chosen to represent our chapter at the Annual meeting in October. Deborah Estes coordinates with LISD employee Suzanne Barnard to really make this project rock.
- A tip of the hat to our new Speakers Bureau which Susan Pohlen is coordinating for now.

Time to review the first quarter of the year, which was loaded with many events.

Your efforts are being noticed on the projects and in the community. Our chapter continues to grow and our training classes and reputation are getting larger because of your efforts. Thank you and keep up the good work.

Time to review the first quarter of the year, which was loaded with many events. As of March 31 we have had opportunities for 43 hours of AT and countless hours of service. Rob Roy reported 324.0 AT & 2,706.5 hours of service to the state for Quarter One. Awesome!

We have also reached the time of year when local events are abundant so there are many opportunities to work a booth and meet the public. Volunteers are always wanted so don't hesitate to step up!

We had a transferee join us in February (Scott Kiester) and welcomed back inactive member (LeeAnn Jernigan) in March. In January, Katy Hammon passed and left a huge hole in our hearts. Bill continues in her memory with managing the Beaver Creek Ranch project. Beverly Lyttaker and Bill will co-manage the Angler Education Instructor Training.

The 2013 Class hit the ground running. These newest members are bringing great ideas, tremendous enthusiasm and an energy that can't be ignored! They are making it possible to invigorate existing projects like Clear Creek and explore new ones.



The Training Committee is well into the planning for the 2014 Class and has several applicants already. Some of these applicants are joining us for our monthly meetings, so if you see an unfamiliar face, please introduce yourself and help make them feel welcome.

In response to repeated requests for a sound system, one was purchased in January. In March a laptop PC with the 8.1 Windows operating system was purchased to allow support and speed for many of the presentations being given to our chapter by guest speakers. Thanks to Martha Peet for the work she did on this acquisition. Donna Wolfe led the effort to obtain an Enviroscope® WETLANDS Model for use as a learning tool at events.

Meeting attendance monthly averages based on 119 active members: Member attendees 68, Visitors 6. Often we are asked about attendance records and thought you might like to know. It seems our chapter is growing and accomplishing much. Because of this growth we are entertaining the idea of having our membership drive [Roundup] at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, located at 2200 North Bell, Denton this year. Thank you to Shari Brand for being our liaison.

Spring is that time of year when we are busy reclaiming our yards before the summer sun makes it too difficult. Be careful as you work.



our feedback and input is welcomed.

April 17, 2014 Regular Meeting: New Research at Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)



Trinity River — public domain photo by Ray Drenner



Will McClatchey and **Karen Hall** will present a program on new research being conducted at the Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) in Fort Worth.

Specifically, they will outline a survey of plant diversity and natural community composition across a range of sites in parts of Tarrant, Denton, Wise, and Parker counties with the focus on mapping plant community distributions across the geologies found within the Trinity Clear Fork watershed. They hope to engage the Elm Fork Chapter in a discussion of how we could help them continue to develop work with native plants.

May 15, 2014 Regular Meeting: Behavior of Red-shouldered Hawks: It Is a Hawk-kill-hawk World



Red-shouldered hawk —
Susan Pohlen



At our May meeting, **Jim Bednarz** will discuss his research into the behavior of Red-shouldered hawks. The presentation will feature videos of hawk nestling behavior, elaboration of the natural history of nesting raptors, and the findings of innovative research into the social behavior of birds of prey.

Dr. Bednarz has broad interests in avian ecology, behavioral ecology, wildlife management, and conservation, and began his career working on fishes and aquatic systems. Currently, Jim is teaching at the University of North Texas and at Collin College, and is affiliated with the Lewisville Lake Environmental Learning Area and UNT Quail.

Things accomplished ...

Photos by Alex Lieban

At Chapter meeting March 20, 2014, several members were recognized for hours completed and milestones reached.



Dr. Kelly Reyna shared his remarkable research on declining populations of Northern quail

The "Kissing You" Elliott's, Judi (3500) & Van (4000)



Shepherd C.J. (Solberg) wielded an authoritative staff to keep sheep within the fold!

The "Not kissing You" Don Fikes (initial) & "Fine With Me" Van



The Jan's, Hodson (4000) & Deatherage



The group (re-cert): Hilton Dickerson, Gregory Anderson, Diana Warrendorf, Rob Roy, Veronica Ruangskul



Presiding: The Pres & V-Pres — Van & Jan





Peg La Pointe offers a rebuttal to video referenced in March 2014 newsletter "How wolves change rivers" and suggests reading the following study:

<https://www.sciencemag.org/content/343/6167/1241484>

Science 10 January 2014:

Vol. 343 no. 6167

DOI: 10.1126/science.1241484

Status and Ecological Effects of the World's Largest Carnivores



Please remember that the deadline for **Naturalist News** submission is the Wednesday immediately preceding the monthly board meeting. Anything received after that will be held over to the following month (if appropriate).

Unfortunately, because of the low interest in the Prairie, Lakes and Timbers Regional Conference 2014, it was canceled. The organizers will reconsider the future of the conference.

AT Opportunity in June- Mark your calendar!

The **Blackland Prairie Chapter** has invited us to a presentation, which was going to be done at the Regional Conference. Sally Evans, BPC Education Coordinator, thinks it is good enough that she wanted to invite us. I know some of you are interested in Bees and below is the location information.

Date & Time: 06/21/14 [Saturday] - 9:30 am
 Topic: Every Thing You Needed To Know About Native Bees
 Presenters: Carol Clark [BPC] & Jessica Womack
 Location: Heard Museum, 1 Nature Place, McKinney, TX 75609
 Phone: 214-504-3938

Note: Advanced Training opportunity

Hello TMN friends

I am pleased to announce that the 2014 Texas Master Naturalist Annual meeting and Advanced Training will be held October 24-26, 2014 at Mo Ranch in Hunt, TX.

With this year's meeting, all accommodations will be included in your registration fees-meaning there will be no need to make accommodation arrangements outside of registering for the meeting unless you wanted to stay off site. There will be a variety of accommodation types available when you register. More details will be available once registration opens around late July/early August..

Mark your calendars for October 24-26th, 2014 now!!!

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If we are to continue "Field Notes in Focus", I need your **flora and fauna** photographs. Personally, I would greatly miss the outstanding looks at nature that come from all our talented chapter photographers! Send to: wodum10043@reagan.com