Texas Colonial Waterbird Society Annual Meeting Minutes – November 16-17, 2020

Business Meeting

1. Woody Woodrow nominated Richard Gibbons to be the new upper coast coordinator and John Karges seconded. There were no dissents.
2. It was suggested to formally add TAMU-K, Texas State University, Houston Audubon, and GCBO to voting member status. There were no dissents. TNC was also put forth as an organization to have voting member status. John Karges volunteered to investigate who that person should be.
3. It was suggested to change TAMU-CC Center for Coastal Studies to just TAMU-CC so that other personnel from TAMU-CC can serve in that role because the Center for Coastal Studies does not currently have anyone active in the society. Woody Woodrow pointed out that HRI is part of TAMU-CC and Dale Gawlik has accepted a position there beginning in January. Dale has a long history of working with waterbirds and it is expected that he will bring involvement to the society from that organization. There were no dissents.
4. Susan Heath proposed to change the constitution such that changes can be made at any meeting instead of just the two year symposiums. There were no dissents.
5. We discussed removing the word colonial from the name of the society so it would be The Texas Waterbird Society. There was some discussion about how the constitution would need to be changed to account for that and it was decided that Woody Woodrow would chair a committee to review the constitution and see how it would need to be changed and to present that at the next meeting. Susan Heath, John Karges, Trey Barron, and Bart Ballard volunteered to be on the committee.
6. We discussed setting a date for datasheets to be turned in to compilers and it was agreed that by the end of June data sheets should be sent to compilers for review or if the database is functional, then data should be entered into the database by then for review by the compilers.
7. We discussed setting a date for compilers to have their data and presentations ready for the annual meeting and we decided that November 1 should be that date.
8. Next year the national waterbird society meeting will be in Texas and so we will likely have our meeting in conjunction with that meeting in some manner.

General meeting

The following presentations were given on Monday.

* Upper Texas Coast Region Summary – Richard Gibbons (Houston Audubon): Richard would like to have a Zoom meeting or workshop to develop statewide species summaries/needs, Richard illustrated how UAVs are becoming a powerful tool because we are missing birds by counting from boat, Brent suggested one day of air time for UTC counts because inland colonies go all the way to Lake Livingston.
* Central Texas Coast Region Summary – Brent Ortego (TPWD retired): several major colonies were not counted because of Covid-19 so the numbers for this section of the coast are not indicative of birds present.
* Lower Texas Coast Region Summary – Jonathon Moczygemba (USFWS): predators are a major problem including coyotes, bobcats, and raccoons, there is significant erosion at Laguna Vista Spoil, Bahia Grande Islands, and Benny’s Shack, major storms this season washed away some infrastructure that supports counts including a pier for docking at one location
* Update on Reddish Egret Working Group – Clay Green (Texas State University)

The following presentations were given on Tuesday.

* Update on TCWS database status – Brach Lupher (HRI): Amanda asked about how sub-colony ids were being handled and it was determined that this has not been defined yet, also is it possible to enter Reddish Egrets as red, white, or combined.
* Update on Texas Rookery Island Project – Ray Newby (GLO)
* State Ranking Process for Black Skimmer, Red Knot, and Piping Plover – Cliff Shackelford & Bob Gottfried (TPWD)
* Update on Disturbance issues, Nueces Bay Rookery Islands and Black Skimmer tracking – David Newstead (CBBEP)
* Update on GCJV Nesting Island Cooperative – Bill Vermilion (USFWS)
* Update on Matagorda Bay restoration efforts – Romey Swanson/Alexis Baldera (Audubon)
* Update on Oyster Mariculture in Texas – Emma Clarkson/Trey Barron (TPWD)
* Discussion on adding non-colonial species to the colonial waterbird database – no resolution