

# **Be a Better Birder (B3) Class 2**

## **Summary**

The field trip for Class 2 was March 9th and it was cold and winds were out of the north. We birded the Granger Lake area. Highlights include views of 4 Bald Eagles and 1 mostly heard only Longspur — likely a Thick-billed Longspur based on call. Class 2 of the Be a Better Birder (B3) class consisted of identification of thrushes, bluebirds and vireos and a presentation on spring migration, weather and radar ornithology. A short quiz on ID of birds by silhouette was also presented.

**Part 1 of Class 2** consisted of a lecture on Spring migration and radar ornithology. Eric discussed

- the 3 major “flyways” of migrating birds;

- the evolutionary changes and environmental pressures that led to the bird migration of birds;

- migration “strategies” and timing;

- how birds navigate and orient themselves;

- the timing and purposes of migration;

- timing and routes of migration through Texas; and

- an introduction to radar ornithology and Birdcast (a service of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology).

**Part 2 of Class 2** consisted of **Identification of Thrushes and Bluebirds.**

**Part 3 of Class 2** was **Identification of Vireos.**

Finally, the class participated in a **bird silhouette quiz** and then discussed the answers.