



January 2012

President's Perspective

Happy New Year! Even though I hate to take down the festive Christmas lights, January is always welcome to me. While I quit making New Year's Resolutions a long time ago, I am going to bird more this year and I do want to learn those dang sparrows! I look forward to Rockport in the winter and the Whooping Crane boat trip. Then the Great Backyard Bird Count and the High Island trip...it goes on and on! And a big part of what makes it all so enjoyable are the great friends in Audubon that we get to share it with. On a sad note, some longtime members of Audubon have recently passed away...Dr. John Hilliard and Dorothy Shandera. We will miss them and we extend our deepest sympathy to their friends and family.
Carol Reed

Huntsville Audubon

A Chapter of the National Audubon Society
P. O. Box 6818
Huntsville, Texas 77340

Our Mission

To increase our community's awareness of the natural world and the need for its preservation, through education and the active enjoyment of birds and other wildlife.

Officers

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Web Master	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937

Our Website: <http://www.huntsvilleaudubon.org/>

Programs and Events

January Meeting: Our meeting will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2012, at Fire Station #2. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with a light supper, followed by our meeting and program at 7:00. We're going to have a **Taco Dinner!** The board will supply the meat, taco shells, rice, beans, lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream, onions, cheese and picante sauce. We need our members to fill in with things like guacamole, dips, chips, side dishes and desserts. Thank you for all that you do to make our meetings a success!

January Program: Our speaker at the meeting will be **Jeff Wozniak, PhD**, who works for TRIES at SHSU. (Texas Research Institute for Environmental Studies.) His program will be "*Understanding the linkages between historic drought, estuarine salinity and coastal marsh habitat quality: impacts for the endangered Whooping Crane.*" The talk will include an overview of the coastal marshes of the ANWR and the previous work done in the system to determine how freshwater inflow to the estuary impacts estuarine salinity, marsh salinity and wolfberry fruit production (a major food source for the cranes). He will discuss some whooping crane background material and lastly discuss current research, which examines how the current exceptional drought is impacting both the marsh and the whooping crane.

January Field Trip: Our January field trip is a natural follow-up to our program. We will be traveling to **Rockport on January 28, 2012, for our bi-annual Whooping Crane trip.** There will be more information at the meeting along with a sign-up sheet. If you have questions, please call **Carol at 936-295-3958.**

Upcoming programs and field trips:
February: Program on backyard birds in preparation for the Great Backyard Bird Count. The field trip will be our annual GBBC breakfast at Huntsville State Park to kick off the weekend event. More info will be available at the January meeting.

March: We are planning a program on the current status of the red-cockaded woodpecker, and our field trip is tentatively planned as a follow-up to that program with a trip to bird in the Sam Houston National Forest where the red-cockaded woodpecker nests.

April: Our April program is to be announced, but our field trip will be our annual trek to High Island to celebrate spring migration!! *For info on High Island and other sanctuaries, see the Houston Audubon website at:*

<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/>

May: It's PICNIC time!!

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account \$562.50 with some funds undeposited at time of report.

Memorial Conservation Fund \$4,161.50

THE 2011 DR. JIMMIE LONG MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT was held on December 17, 2011. The final tally is not completely compiled, but when it is available, the information will be added to our website and will be included in the next newsletter.

A BIG THANK YOU to all who participated in the count and to all who attended and brought food to our spaghetti dinner. An **EXTRA LARGE THANK YOU** to Pauline Blackard for once again hosting the dinner in her beautiful home.

2012 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT!! The Great Backyard Bird Count is coming up from February 17-20, 2012. Visit the official website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/> for more information. We will take more about this annual event at our January meeting.

In Memory

John Roy Hilliard Jr., a longtime member of Huntsville Audubon, age 87, was called home to the loving arms of our Lord on December 21, 2011, in Elgin, Texas. He was born on February 7, 1924, in Irving, Texas, to Rev. John Roy and Ruth Hilliard. He had two brothers, Dan and Jim, and a sister, Maxine. He graduated from Tivy High School in Kerrville, Texas. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Trinity University in San Antonio, a Master of Science from University of Colorado in Boulder and a PhD from the University of Texas at Austin. He taught biology and was the Chairman of the Biology Department at McMurry College in Abilene, Texas. In 1968, he moved Huntsville, Texas, where he was a Professor of Biology at Sam Houston State University until his retirement. His primary interest was insects and specialized in grasshoppers. He met his wife while at Trinity University and they were married on Christmas Day, 1950. They raised four children. They had two sons, James R. (Ron) of Elgin, Texas and Richard A. (Rick) of South Bend, Indiana. In 1973, John and Joyce became the guardians of Danielle (11) and Jon (9) Hilliard after his brother and their parents, Dan and Suzanne Hilliard, were killed in a plane crash in Mexico. He was preceded in death by his parents and his two brothers. He is survived by his wife, Joyce of Elgin, his sister, Maxine Ryan of El Paso, Texas, his four children, Ron Hilliard and his wife Debby of Elgin, Texas, Rick Hilliard and his wife Celeste of South Bend, Indiana, Danielle Henkes and her husband David of San Antonio, Texas and Jon Hilliard and Janie of Vacaville, California. John was a gentle man who had a passion for teaching and cared for his students. He served in many leadership positions at St. Stevens Episcopal Church in Huntsville. He especially enjoyed singing in the choir. He was a role model for his children and those he taught. He served in the U.S. Army in the Army of Occupation in Japan. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America as a Troop Committeeman as his two sons both worked their way to the rank of Eagle Scout. John was a loving and dedicated husband and a wonderful father. He treated everyone with kindness and understanding. A memorial service was held on Thursday, December 29 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Steven's Episcopal Church at 5019 Sam Houston Ave., Huntsville, Tx. 77340.



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<http://www.earthshare-texas.org/>



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