



April 2009

President's Perspective

April showers and April flowers! We saw beautiful wildflowers in Eastham-Thomason Park on our walk there Saturday the 11th. It was truly a riot of color! When you add in all the migrants that are beginning to show up, it just doesn't get any better than spring in Southeast Texas in my opinion.

We're coming to the end of another chapter year. Can you believe it? There are still lots of opportunities, though, for learning, birding and just plain old good fun! Hope to see you at the meeting!

Brenda

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

President	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937
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Vice-President	Lea Cornelius	291-7946
Secretary	Paula Foreman	291-7123
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Committee Chairs

Programs	Board Members	291-6885
Field Trips	Jon Muncrief	435-9937
Conservation	Anne-Marie Prouty	295-3958
Newsletter	Joan Prouty	291-7204
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Hospitality	Glenn Coker	291-6154
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Liaison: Schls/Conserv./Jr. Aud.	- Paula Foreman	
Web Master	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937

Our Website: www.huntsvilleaudubon.org

Programs and Events

April Meeting: Our meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16th, 2009, at **Fire Station #2**, located at 2109 Sam Houston Avenue. Supper, 6:30 p.m. followed by our program at 7:00 p.m.

Supper: For supper, we will each be building our own **Dagwood Creation!** The chapter will furnish the meat and cheese tray, and the board will supply condiments and other fixin's. As always, side dishes, salads and desserts are welcome.

Birding 101: We had our first Birding 101 class in March and conducted a morning bird walk on Saturday, April 11, for the participants. During the classroom session, we spent several hours going over how to use binoculars, choosing field guides, birding by ear, and field marks for making the proper identification of an unfamiliar bird. We currently have three participants, but would love to add anyone interested in learning more about this wonderful hobby. If you're interested, please call Brenda at 936-435-9937.

It was a great morning to go out looking for birds to ID on the 11th. The weather was beautiful, and the wildflower areas at Eastham-Thomason Park were in full bloom! Just to give you a sample of what we saw and/or heard:

- Blue grosbeak
- Green heron
- American crow
- White-throated sparrow
- Chipping sparrow
- Eastern bluebird
- White-eyed vireo
- Red-eyed vireo
- Black vulture
- Hooded warbler
- Cape May warbler (we think - based on song)
- Carolina Chickadee
- Carolina Wren
- Northern Cardinal
- Blue Jay
- Red-shouldered Hawk
- Heard a barred owl!!

Program: Our program this month will be presented by our local Master Gardeners club, specifically Maryann Readal. Maryann will present "**Gardening for the Flowers of the Air!**" In addition, each of us will **make a butterfly feeder** to take home with us!! Maryann is a member of the Walker County Master Gardeners, founding member and Vice Chair of the Texas Thyme Unit of the Herb Society of America, and librarian of the Lone Star College System, Montgomery. She has been an avid gardener for many years with a particular interest in creating gardens that appeal to all of the senses.

April Field Trip: Our annual **High Island field trip** is this weekend! We will meet at the Shipley's Donuts on Highway 30 in Huntsville at 6:00 am **Saturday, April 18, 2009** and carpool to High Island. For anyone else driving on their own or coming from somewhere other than Huntsville, we will meet at the bleachers at Boy Scout Woods at 9:00 am. Bring \$5 for the entry fee for the Houston Audubon sanctuaries and a picnic lunch. We will eat at the picnic area at Smith's Woods around 11 or 12. We usually plan on staying in the area until 2 or 3 pm depending on the birds! If the birding isn't great at High Island, we may go home by way of Anahuac Wildlife Refuge and check that out. Remember, all this area was devastated by Hurricane Ike so it will look very different from in the past.

Be sure to **wear comfortable shoes, bring water, insect repellent, binoculars and a field guide.** Huntsville Audubon has binoculars to lend, so if you need a pair, call Carol Reed at 295-3958. If anyone is interested in spending Friday night in the area, Winnie, Texas is about 30 minutes from High Island and has a Holiday Inn Express, Best Western and some other decent hotels.

We will pass around a sign-up sheet at the meeting Thursday night. If you will not be able to attend the meeting, but still want to come on the trip, please call **Brenda Muncrief at 435-9937 or 581-2315** so she will be sure to wait for you Saturday morning. If you have any questions, please call either Carol or Brenda. Don't think that you have to be a great birder to come on this trip! **This is a great place for beginning birders to get their feet wet.**

James (Jimmie) Duncan Long

Memorial services for James D. Long, age 83, were held at Huntsville Funeral Home Chapel on Saturday, March 7, 2009, at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Long was a charter member of Huntsville Audubon and hosted the annual Christmas Bird Count spaghetti dinner for many years.

Jimmie was born in Rusk, Texas, on September 23, 1925 to John M. and Maudess Holcomb Long. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, John Garrett Long. Surviving are sister, Maudelia (Clifford) Trevathan of Lufkin, sister-in-law Heloise Long (Harlan) Castles of Smithville, four nephews, three nieces, ten great nephews and nieces and six great-great nephews and nieces.

Dr. Long received a two-year degree from Lon Morris College in Jacksonville, Texas, the B.S. and M.A. degrees in Biology from Sam Houston State Teachers College in Huntsville, Texas, and the Ph. D. degree in Zoology from the University of Texas, Austin, Texas. His teaching career began in Groveton, Texas, and he later taught biology at Lamar Institute of Technology in Beaumont, Texas. After completing his doctorate he was Associate Professor of Biology at Illinois College in Jacksonville, Illinois. He returned to Texas in 1959 as Associate Professor of Biology at Sam Houston State Teachers College, and later served as Department Director from 1961 to 1972. Dr. Long retired from Sam Houston State University in 1999 at which time he was named Professor Emeritus for his many accomplishments in the biological sciences and in science education.

The James D. Long Biology Endowment continues to provide scholarships to deserving students at Sam Houston State University.

End of Year Picnic: Our annual picnic will be held on our usual meeting date in May – Thursday, May 21, 2009. We usually begin assembling about 5:00 p.m. to set up the grills and get the tables arranged. Our “dogs and burgers” should be ready to eat about 6:00 p.m. The chapter provides the meats and drinks, and the board will get things such as buns and condiments. Head dog chef, Carol, will perform her usual magic at the grill, and this year Jon Muncrief will help with burnin’ the burgers. As is always the case, any contribution you can make in the way of side dishes, salads and desserts will be appreciated by all!

Nominating Committee: It’s that time again! Our nominating committee will be working between now and our April meeting to put together a slate of officers for our 2009-10 chapter year. If you **have a desire** to serve as a board member or committee chair, please **call Brenda at 936-435-9937 or Carol at 936-295-3958**. We will put you in touch with the committee chair. If you receive a call from the committee, please consider serving our chapter in this capacity. ***It is a rewarding experience!***

Electronic Newsletter: We have been sending the newsletter electronically for several months, and it seems to be working well for those receiving it. If you are having any difficulties with it or if you would like to begin receiving the online version of the newsletter, please let Carol Reed know by calling 936-295-3958.



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