



February 2009

President's Perspective

Happy February, All! I love this time of year and can't wait to hear and see the first spring migrants! We have several opportunities this month for birding and conservation activities. Let's keep our Australian friends in mind, too. The fires in southeast Australia and the tropical floods in the far northeast parts of the country are both devastating events that carry long-term consequences and are impacting countless lives.

I look forward to seeing you at the GBBC breakfast on the 14th and the meeting on the 19th!

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
Email:	butterflybren@suddenlink.net	
Vice-President	Lea Cornelius	291-7946
Secretary	Paula Foreman	291-7123
Treasurer/ Membership	Carol Reed	295-3958

Committee Chairs

Programs	Board Members	291-6885
Field Trips	Jon Muncrief	435-9937
Conservation	Anne-Marie Prouty	295-3958
Newsletter	Joan Prouty	291-7204
Publicity/Scrapbk	Joy Tinsley	295-6874
Hospitality	Glenn Coker	291-6154
Edu/Jr. Audubon	Tom Stafford	295-1403
Liaison: Schls/Conserv./Jr. Aud.	- Paula Foreman	
Web Master	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937

Our Website: www.huntsvilleaudubon.org

Programs and Events

February Meeting: Thursday, February 19th, 2009 at **Fire Station #2**, 2109 Sam Houston Avenue. Supper, 6:30 p.m. followed by our program at 7:00 p.m..

Program: Anne-Marie Prouty has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Psychology from the University of Iowa and a Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology from Sam Houston State. She is about to complete her Master's degree in Biology from Sam Houston State University, studying under Ornithologist, Dr. Diane Neudorf. Her focus of study has been on songbird nest predation in rural and urban environments. Habitat loss to human use imposes great stress on songbird communities across the globe and predation is the leading cause of nest failure. For our program on February 19th, she will present her findings here in Walker County, as well as some things you can do at home to help thwart predation of nesting songbirds. She will then present some information about our field trip to Eastham-Thomason Park the following Saturday, where we will put up some bluebird nest boxes.

Supper: The menu for our February 19th meeting is **Lasagna!** The board will supply the main dish and a few other items. As always, side dishes, salads and desserts are always welcome.

Field Trip: There are **TWO** field trip opportunities in February. The first is the Great Backyard Bird Count breakfast on Saturday, **February 14th (VALENTINES DAY!) at Pauline Blackard's**. Breakfast will be at 8:00 a.m. Pauline's address is **3819 Spring Dr.**, Huntsville. The second field trip will be on **February 21st** when we will go with Anne Prouty, our Conservation Chair, to put out some bluebird boxes at Eastham-Thomason Park. This will be a great opportunity to practice some conservation measures and also get in some great birdwatching at the same time!!

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT: The Great Backyard Bird Count will be held on the weekend of February 13, 14, 15 and 16th. Our annual breakfast will be on February 14th at the home of Pauline Blackard. For more information on the event, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.

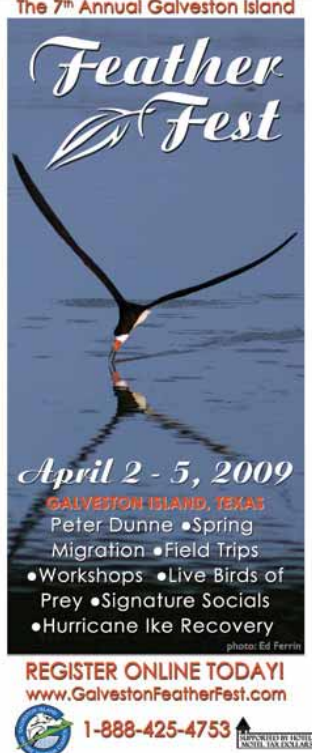
MEMORIAL CONSERVATION FUND DONORS: We want to thank those who have made contributions to the Memorial Conservation Fund. The balance is growing, and the project is beginning to take shape! Recent donors include: **Donald & Fay March-Bye**, Prairie Du Sac, WI; **Art & Alice Hughes**, Huntsville, TX; **George & Betty Reynolds**, Huntsville, TX; **Joe Smith**, Huntsville, TX. Our Conservation committee will be meeting in the near future with Chris Holm at the Huntsville State Park to finalize the location for the **Jack Prouty Memorial Bird Blind project**.

Post Hurricane Ike recovery continues along our coast line. The sanctuaries suffered severe damage and will be a long time recovering. Tree removal and fence repair have been the focus so far. Volunteers are desperately needed to participate in the work days. You can check the following websites for information on work days, progress, and contact information:

Houston Audubon Society
<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/>
Golden Triangle Audubon Society
<http://www.goldentriangleaudubon.org/focus-areas>
 (Sabine Pass work day 2/28/09)
Texas Ornithological Society
<http://www.texasbirds.org/>

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? Update on **Dick Payne** -- Anne Staples gave us an update on one of former members. Dick and Kathy Payne now live in Colorado Springs, where Dick has been the CEO and President of the American Birding Association since September of 2006. Dick is planning on "re-retiring" from that position in April of this year after which he and Kathy will move to San Angelo. Welcome back to Texas, Dick and Kathy!

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST!!

	<p>A Celebration of Whooping Cranes – Port Aransas, TX February 26 – March 1, 2009</p> <p>“Get your binoculars and checklists ready! This area is the only spot in the United States where the endangered whooping crane can be viewed at close range and the Port Aransas Chamber of Commerce celebrates this astonishing natural wonder with an annual celebration honoring these grand birds.”</p> <p>http://www.portaransas.org/cranes.html</p>	<p>Balcones Songbird Festival</p> <p><i>Celebrate Nature!</i> 2009 Friday, April 24 - Monday, April 27, 2009 Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge in the Hill Country.</p> <p><i>a celebration of nature through a collection of interpretive events to experience birds, butterflies and wildflowers</i></p> <p>REGISTRATION opens February 1, 2009</p> <p>http://balconessongbirdfestival.org</p>
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Earth Share OF TEXAS "One environment. One simple way to care for it."

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



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