



**February 2010**

**President's Perspective**

This month's newsletter is a tad late getting out, and for that I apologize. It is my hope to be able to devote more time to the newsletter and website next year as someone else takes the reins and fills the President's Boots. For now, though, we work hard to get the information to you. Always remember to check the website for updates that might appear at intervals throughout the month. I try to keep the site up to date with meeting dates and other events.

We will be appointing a nominating committee this month. Please consider serving the Chapter as either an officer or board member when you are called upon. 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
Email:	butterflybren@suddenlink.net	
Vice-President	Lea Cornelius	291-7946
Secretary	OPEN	
Treasurer/ Membership	Carol Reed	295-3958

**Committee Chairs**

Programs	Paul Culp	295-3404
Field Trips	Terry Brackeen	661-6531
Conservation	Anne-Marie Prouty	295-3958
Newsletter	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937
Publicity/Scrapbk	Joy Tinsley	293-1918
Hospitality	Jon Muncrief & Glenn Coker	435-9937
Edu/Jr. Audubon	Tom Stafford	295-1403
Web Master	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937

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

**Programs and Events**

**February Meeting:** Our meeting will be held on Thursday, **February 18, 2010**, at **Fire Station #2**, located at 2109 Sam Houston Avenue. Supper is at 6:30 p.m. followed by our meeting and program at 7:00 p.m. **For supper**, we will have **LASAGNA**, which will be provided by the chapter. There will be two varieties – with meat sauce and vegetarian. As always, side dishes and desserts will be a welcomed addition to our main course.

**Program:** The program this month will be courtesy of **Mark Short** of the Walker County Master Gardeners. He will be presenting an abridged version of their highly successful mini-course on **installing a spring garden**. Whether or not you intend to have a garden, you will be rewarded to learn more about the environmental rewards of using fewer--or no--pesticides. He will be outlining the **LEAF-PRO system** that has been so successful.

**Field Trip:** Our February field trip was our **Great Backyard Bird Count Breakfast**. We had 12 in attendance, and we counted 22 species at Joy's feeders. Thank you, Joy, for hosting our breakfast in your beautiful home, and to you and Glenn Coker for providing our main dishes for the breakfast. Thanks to other members who contributed goodies for our enjoyment.

On March 20<sup>th</sup>, we will go **fossil hunting** at Whiskey Bridge, led by a member of the local Gem and Rock Club. There will be more information on the website and next month's newsletter.

**January 30<sup>th</sup>: Rockport Whooping Crane Trip:** Huntsville Audubon had its bi-annual Rockport Whooping Crane Trip on Saturday, January 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. Although it was very cold, the day was sunny and beautiful and we saw several pairs of whoopers and at least 4 chicks. Attendance from Huntsville Audubon was pretty sparse, just Carol Reed, Anne Prouty, and Diane Neudorf, but 6 students from Diane's ornithology class went along and we all had a great time. As tradition demanded, we all met for dinner at Charlotte Plummer's Seafood Restaurant for a delicious meal Friday night. Saturday at 10am, we boarded The Wharf Cat at Rockport Harbor (along with about 20 boy scouts!) for a narrated birding tour up to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, winter home of the whooping cranes. Although 23 whoopers were lost last year due to impacts of the drought, we had numerous up-close looks at many pairs and families. The peak population for the Aransas-Wood Buffalo flock in the 2008-09 winter was 270. However, with the loss of the 23 birds during the winter, the population stands at 247, very precarious. Diane and her students maintained a list of all the other great birds we saw and we will post that on the website soon.

**Great Backyard Bird Count – February 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2010.** We will either be in the midst of the Great Backyard Bird Count or it will be over by the time most of you see this newsletter. If anyone needs help with entering your counts, please give one of the board members a call. (Numbers are listed at the top of this newsletter.)

**2009 Jimmie D. Long Memorial Christmas Bird Count:**

Huntsville Audubon held its 2009 Christmas Bird Count on Saturday, January 2, 2010. Coordinated by Dan Jones and Carol Reed, we had great participation with 22 members and guests counting birds. Participants were divided into eight birding parties to cover the count area. Results were compiled at the traditional spaghetti dinner that evening, hosted by Pauline Blackard, and yielded a total of 85 species and 5,340 individuals. The count totals will be posted on the chapter website soon. Thanks again for everyone who helped.

**GREEN TIP FOR February:**

“Air-drying some or all of your wet laundry could save you \$135 in energy costs every year, prevent tons of CO2 from entering the atmosphere, and might result in less wear-and-tear on clothes.” (www.greenyour.com)

**January Treasurer’s Report:**

Checking Account Balance: \$ 980.17  
Memorial Fund Balance: \$3,153.02

We are still trying to coordinate all the details of the bird blind with the State Park. We have been asked to consider a different location than the first one we chose. Anne Prouty, our Conservation Chair, will be meeting with Chris Holm and other Park Personnel this month to talk about other options.

**Update on Roy Kveton:** Our long-time member, Roy Kveton, remains in the local hospital at this time. Please remember him with a card or a visit. The chapter sent some cheery flowers for his room in late January.

**PLEASE HELP!**

In the early 1990’s, Jack Prouty, Roy Kveton, Art Hughes, Paul Culp and others rescued Huntsville Audubon Society from the brink of extinction by assuming leadership roles in the organization. Our local chapter was in danger of disappearing because the previous leaders had become, well, burned out. For a number of years prior, just a few members were shouldering all the officer and chair positions year after year due to, well, I’m not sure what. Lack of new members, little interest from existing members and members involved in other commitments could be the explanation.

We’re finding ourselves in a similar situation here in 2010 with a few members assuming all the roles of responsibility year after year. Currently, we have no newsletter editor or secretary. This is not a healthy situation for the organization or these individuals. Any organization needs fresh ideas and perspectives to thrive and Huntsville Audubon is no exception. If you enjoy our organization and value its mission and its potential, please become more involved.

This plea is not intended for those longtime members, who are not currently officers, who over the years have held every office three times. Rather, I’m speaking to those of you who are new or longtime members who have never held office or to those members who receive the newsletter but don’t normally attend meetings. **WE NEED YOU!** Huntsville Audubon is a great organization, our meetings and field trips are informative and fun, and the people are wonderful. Please help our chapter to continue to offer these activities to our community. Nominations and elections for next year are just around the corner... (A nominating committee will be named at the February Board meeting.)

**Upcoming Area Events:**

**Galveston Featherfest** – April 8-11, 2010  
<http://www.galvestonfeatherfest.com/>

**Balcones Songbird Festival** -- April 23-26, 2010  
<http://www.friendsofbalcones.org/>

**Migration Celebration** -- April 16-18, 2010  
<http://migrationcelebration.org/>  
San Bernard NWR, Brazoria County, TX



”One environment. One simple way to care for it.” <http://www.earthshare-texas.org/>



**Huntsville Audubon**  
**P.O. Box 6818**  
**Huntsville, TX 77342-6818**