



February 2011

President's Perspective

We had a marvelous trip to Rockport to see the endangered **Whooping Crane** last month! The boat ride and surrounding area culminated in a list of over **70 species** of mostly waterfowl and wading birds including my favorites of the trip: Black-crowned Night Heron and Glossy Ibis. Of course we saw several pairs of whoopers with juveniles, and one pair even in a resident's back yard! We have a great program scheduled for this month too.

See you at the meeting.
Anne-Marie Prouty

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

Programs and Events

February Meeting: Huntsville Audubon will hold its monthly meeting on **Thursday, February 17, 2011**, at 6:30pm. Our meeting location is Fire Station No. 2 on Sam Houston Avenue. The menu for this month is an all-time favorite, **FRIED CHICKEN!!** The Chapter will provide the chicken and dinner rolls. If you can provide a **side dish, salad or dessert**, they are always welcomed additions!

February Program: Our own **Dan Jones** will present a program called "*Eastern Bluebird Ecology and Nest Box Use.*"

Dan has a B.S. in Wildlife Program and M.S. in Biology from Sam Houston State University. His academic specialization was Avian Fire Ecology. Dan was a Biologist with the Trinity River Authority for 12 years, a Wildlife Biologist with Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for 13 yrs, and currently is the Regulatory Wildlife Biologist. His areas of interest are Avian fire ecology, Eastern wild turkey reintroduction, and Prairie restoration and management.

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK!

Look for Huntsville Audubon online at <http://www.huntsvilleaudubon.org> AND on Facebook, at **Huntsville (Texas) Audubon Society**. **If you have a Facebook page, please be sure to join our group.** It is another way to keep up with everything that is going on in our Chapter!

FIELD TRIP CORNER:

There will be no field trip other than the **Backyard Bird Count event** in February. In March we shall explore the **Bearkat Camp** just north of Riverside on the Trinity River; probably very few of you have seen this latest addition to the SHSU extended Campus. April will find us at **Nature's Cathedral**, a large protected area that includes—in addition to beautiful overlooks of Lake Livingston—a large collection of outdoor statuary, a riverboat, and a marble pyramid. Sturdy footwear and perhaps a walking stick are highly recommended for both these outings. Also in April, we will take our annual trek to **High Island** to enjoy the wonder of spring migration!

PAUL CULP

On **Saturday, February 19**, our annual **Great Backyard Bird Count breakfast** will be held outdoors, weather permitting, near **Raven Lodge in Huntsville State Park**. The plan is to meet at the park-and-ride area near the Interstate and Park Road 40. There, we will carpool with members who have park passes which will keep the entrance cost to a minimum.

The Chapter will provide a variety of doughnuts and pastries for the event. The State Park is the perfect setting to enjoy breakfast with the birds! ***There will be a sign-up sheet and more details at the meeting on February 17, 2011.***

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT: Blackbirds made the headlines when a flock of thousands fell from the skies in Arkansas on New Year's Eve. Now bird enthusiasts across the continent are counting the birds—not just blackbirds, but birds of more than 600 species—in the annual Great Backyard Bird Count.

During February 18–21 the event will create an instantaneous snapshot of birdlife across the U.S. and Canada for all to see. Anyone can help by tallying birds for at least 15 minutes on any day of the count. At www.birdcount.org, you can enter the highest number of each species seen at any one time and watch as the tallies grow across the continent.

Coordinated by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, and Bird Studies Canada, the four-day count typically records more than 10 million observations.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance: Not available at the time of printing this newsletter.

Memorial Fund Balance: \$ 4,141.28

Our treasurer, Carol Reed, has submitted the Annual Financial Report to National Audubon.

(The Memorial Fund includes an amount of \$925, granted to the Chapter by Audubon Foundation of Texas for work on the bird blind.)

FRIENDS OF HUNTSVILLE STATE PARK PROGRAMS, AT RAVEN LODGE

2/20/2011, 2:00 p.m: **Xeriscaping 101**
3:30 p.m: **Composting Basics**

3/20/2011, 2:00 p.m: **Wildscape 101**. Speaker will be **Diana Foss**, Urban Wildlife Biologist with Texas State Parks and Wildlife Department.

All programs are **free to the public** and sound awesome!

Bird Blind Update: After speaking with members of the Audubon Foundation of Texas Board and Shari Kolding of Audubon Texas, we have decided to submit another grant proposal this year in hopes of obtaining another collaborative grant to help with the building of the bird blind. We haven't used the grant funds from last year, but given the scope of our project and having to work with not only the State Park but also AmeriCorps, the AFT board understands why the funds are still in our Memorial Fund Account. With an additional grant, we would be able to begin work on Phase 2 of the project sooner. We will be submitting our proposal in the next few weeks, so cross your fingers!

Upcoming Events:

- **Great Backyard Bird Count**, 2/18 – 2/21/2011
- **High Island** trip April 23, 2011
- **Nature's Cathedral**, April 30, 2011
- **Chapter Picnic**, May 19, 2011

9th Annual Galveston FeatherFest
4/7 – 4/10/2011

Balcones Canyonlands Songbird Festival
4/29 – 5/2/2011

Earth Share Texas is the source of most of the money used to fund the collaborative grants given by Audubon Foundation of Texas. Please visit their website to learn more about their wonderful organization and how they raise the money to help fund Texas Chapters' projects.



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



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