



January 2009

President's Perspective

A big THANKS for all the help with the Christmas Bird Count and for the delicious food prepared for our countdown dinner. Now we turn our focus to a brand-new year full of possibilities and opportunities!

There are many spring bird festivals to tempt us and great local birding as well. This month please plan to join our field trip to Huntsville State Park for a morning of birding. The park is one of our many local birding resources, so let's utilize it and see which of our feathered friends are making it their home this winter.

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

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Web Master	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937

Our Website: www.huntsvilleaudubon.org

Programs and Events

January Meeting: Thursday, January 15, 2008, **Fire Station #2**,
2109 Sam Houston Avenue. 6:30 Supper; 7:00 Program.

Program: Do you want to conserve water (and **save money\$\$!**) on your landscaping by planting native plants, but you're not quite sure where to start? **Brenda Muncrief** will present a program on choosing native plants for **our specific area of Texas**, along with some basic tips for organic gardening and other water conservation measures.

Supper: The menu for our January 15th meeting is a big favorite -- **Stuffed Baked Potatoes!!** The board will supply the potatoes and toppings. As always, salads, side dishes and desserts will be welcome additions.

Field Trip: Birding at Huntsville State Park!! If you haven't visited our own Huntsville State Park recently, you might not recognize it. All the upgrades and improvements are done. Let's go out and see how many species we can find on Saturday morning, January 17th. Meet at the Park Headquarters at 8:00 a.m. We'll get the group together and head out for some of the trails but also some of the "bird-from-the-car" locations. We will try to make sure there is something for everyone. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting on the 15th. For more information, call Jon Muncrief at 936-435-9937 or Brenda Muncrief at 936-581-2315.

Christmas Bird Count: Thanks to **everyone** who helped with the Christmas Bird Count on January 3rd. We had good participation with coverage in all areas of our count circle. The number of species counted was up, but the number of individual birds seemed to be way down. We will wait on the official results from our compiler, Dan Jones, which we will publish on the website and in next month's newsletter.

A special **THANKS!!** to **Pauline Blackard** for hosting our countdown dinner on Saturday evening after the count. Pauline graciously offered to host the event after we learned of Dr. Jimmie Long's unfortunate fall during the holidays. A big thanks to everyone who brought food for our dinner. As usual, it was delicious and bountiful and gave us the needed strength and endurance for the compilation of our counts!

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. There will be more information at our January meeting, on the website, and in the February newsletter. For more information on the event, go to <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.

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/>

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! 2009</i> 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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