



January 2010

President's Perspective

*After the recent "Arctic Blast," I think we will all be more appreciative of Spring this year! Looking ahead at the upcoming forecast, I see spring-like temps and weather! With spring comes migration!! I have listed several **upcoming events** on page two that are coordinated to happen during this momentous occasion for both birds and birdwatchers. Plan to take advantage of the opportunity to get out and enjoy nature and the beautiful migrants we only see once or twice a year. It is also time for the **Great Backyard Bird Count!** Find more information elsewhere in this newsletter and at the January meeting. See you soon!*

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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Programs	Paul Culp	295-3404
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Our Website: <http://www.huntsvilleaudubon.org/>

Programs and Events

January Meeting: Our meeting will be held on Thursday, **January 21, 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 big bowls of **Hearty Chili!** The Board members will supply the chili and other necessities. As always, side dishes, salads and desserts are welcome.

Program: Panama: The Next Costa Rica, Only Better!!

Jean Warneke refers to Panama as "the next Costa Rica - only better." She and Bob made their first trip to Panama six years ago with their friend and neighbor Victor Emanuel, owner of Victor Emanuel Nature Tours. The birding was spectacular! Since then, Jean has returned four times, and she has become a Panama specialist. She and Bob will head back down on a two-week busman's holiday in May (and Jean has promised Bob a Harpy Eagle!).

Jean is currently the Executive Director of the German-Texas Heritage Society. This part-time position allows her to pursue the development of her travel business, JB Journeys, which specializes in nature tourism in Central America, Southern Mexico, and select Caribbean islands. She and Bob lived in Huntsville in the '80s, and she spent a few years as newsletter editor of The Raven. Bob served two terms as President of the Huntsville Audubon Chapter

Bob Warneke is the General Counsel of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct, a position he has held for almost seven years. In his "free" time, he serves on the boards of the American Birding Association, the Texas Conservation Alliance, the Malcolm C. Damuth Foundation (President), and Rainforest Partnership. Prior to those affiliations, he served two terms as President of Travis Audubon in Austin.

January 30th: Rockport Whooping Crane Trip: It's time once again for our Rockport, Texas Whooping Crane Trip! We will meet at Rockport Harbor Saturday, January 30th for the 10 am Whooping Crane boat tour on the Wharf Cat. The Wharf Cat is a large and comfortable excursion boat with a rooftop viewing area and a heated indoor cabin with booths and refreshments in case of bad weather. The boat travels to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, winter home of the endangered Whooping Crane. The boat trip is four hours and provides a very close look at the cranes along with shore birds, waterfowl and birds of prey. In addition, other wildlife is often seen including deer, coyote, fox, javelina and bobcat to name a few. The boat trip is hosted and narrated by Ray Little, a wildlife guide with many years of experience with whooping cranes and the coastal area. The boat trip costs \$38 for adults and \$35 for seniors. If we reserve space for 20 or more, we can get a group discount of \$5 off the adult fare. The drive to Rockport takes about five hours and most stay at least one night in one of the many local hotels, including Holiday Inn Express, Hampton Inn, Days Inn and Best Western. If you would like to attend or have questions, please contact Carol at 936-295-3958 as soon as possible so we can reserve our space.

For more information on the Wharf Cat and the Rockport area, check out these web sites:
<http://www.texaswhoopers.com/> and <http://www.rockport-fulton.org/>.

Great Backyard Bird Count – February 12, 13, 14, and 15, 2010. Plan to join us for our annual GBBC breakfast on Saturday morning, **February 13, 8:30 a.m.** Joy Tinsley is hosting our breakfast this year. After we eat and visit, we'll take a "bird walk" either to Glenn Coker's back yard or to one of the parks in the Elkins Lake area. There will be more information at the January meeting.

For more information on the event and how to participate during all four days, visit the GBBC website at <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>.

GREEN TIP FOR January:

Joy Tinsley inspired this month's tip when she asked **what to do with those mesh produce bags** in which you get potatoes, oranges, etc. If improperly discarded, these bags can be quite hazardous to wildlife. Here are a few things I found at <http://www.recycle-eh.com/plastic.htm>

You can turn a bunch of plastic **mesh produce bags**, the ones that hold potatoes, onions and oranges, into instant pot scrubbers that last forever (not surprising!!). Scrunch a few of those mesh or net bags together with a recycled elastic band to make a scouring pad that won't scratch your pots and pans. You can also use these to scrub out your bathtub and sinks without leaving a scratch. You'll never need to buy another pot scrubber again. If you only have one or two of these mesh bags, insert a kitchen foam sponge inside one for scouring pots and pans.

These mesh bags also make excellent **exfoliators** in the bath. Stick in a bar of soap inside one, tie with a pretty ribbon, and scrub away!!

Mesh bags can also be used as storage bags for the bathroom and other areas. Use the bags to store bath toys, or use them to carry toiletries to the gym. Put a bar of soap in a mesh bag and hang it near an outdoor faucet and use it to wash up after dirty outdoor jobs.

They can also be washed and reused when you shop and buy bulk produce. Get creative and let me know if you find other uses for these bags!

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...

Dr. Jimmy Long Memorial Christmas Bird Count

Huntsville Audubon held its annual Christmas Birdcount, named in memory of charter member Dr. Jimmy Long, on January 2nd. Despite missing a few of the regulars due to illness and travel, we had tremendous participation from both longtime participants and new. Thanks to everyone for their help with both the count and the spaghetti dinner, especially Dan Jones and Pauline Blackard. In next month's issue of *The Raven*, we will have more details about the count including species, rare sightings, participants and more.

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/>

Get well soon, Roy!

Huntsville Audubon sends our best wishes for a speedy recovery to longtime member Roy Kveton recovering from recent surgery.



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