



January 2011

President's Perspective

Happy New Year! The flocks of Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, and Chipping Sparrow are among us, and I know it's a new year. The ground itself seems to be moving, and feeders swing back and forth as hundreds of them get their fill of black oil sunflower seed. For me, this is more than a sign of a new year, but it's also a memory: standing at the kitchen window with my father as he points out the field marks of all these birds, and then quizzes me throughout the winter. What a wonderful legacy I can enjoy year after year. My New Year's resolution? Bird more than I did last year and pass on the legacy. 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

January Meeting: Huntsville Audubon will hold its monthly meeting on **Thursday, January 20, 2011**, at 6:30pm. Our meeting location is Fire Station No. 2 on Sam Houston Avenue. The menu for October is **Tortilla bean soup!** Board members will provide the main dish and some of the necessary extras. If you can provide a **side dish, salad or dessert**, they are always welcomed additions!

January Program: We begin the New Year with an exciting program on **nature photography** from a friend of Huntsville Audubon's from south Texas. **Harriet Holland of Rockport, Texas** will present a program entitled "**Essentials of Bird Photography**". Harriet is a longtime friend of Carol and Anne's, has visited Huntsville many times, and has taken the whooping crane boat trip with members of Huntsville Audubon in the past. By profession, Harriet is an electrical engineer in Corpus Christi, but nature photography is her passion, and all her spare time is spent shooting with her camera in and around Rockport. Harriet's work has been published in **Birder's World** and **Texas Parks & Wildlife** Magazines as well as **Coastal Bend's In Focus** publication and the **North American Nature Photographer's** publication entitled **Impressions 2009**. Her work can also be viewed at her online gallery at www.pbase.com/Rockport. Harriet will bring examples of her work for viewing and they will be available for purchase.

January Field Trip:

Rockport Whooping Crane Trip

Our annual (or biannual!) trip to **Rockport, Texas** will be **the weekend of January 29, 2011**. This trip includes a 4-hour excursion on the "**Wharf Cat**" up the Intercoastal Waterway to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. The Wharf Cat leaves Saturday morning from Rockport Harbor at 10 am and returns at 2pm. The cost of the boat trip is \$43.00 for adults, \$40.00 for seniors, and \$20 for youth. In addition to the **Whooping Cranes**, other birding is always great, even if the weather isn't! In addition to the boat trip, there is always time for additional birding in Rockport and Aransas Island, and a trip to Charlotte Plummer's Seafood Restaurant! Many reasonably priced motels are available, including Holiday Inn Express, Days Inn, Hampton Inns and others. The decision to stay one or two nights depends entirely on personal preference. Carpooling may be an option depending on the number of people making the trip. Anyone is welcome to join Huntsville Audubon on this trip. If you are interested in making this trip or would like more information, please call Carol at 936-295-3958.

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!

The 2010 Huntsville **Audubon Jimmie Long Memorial Christmas Bird Count** was held this year on New Years Day. What a way to start the year off right! Thirteen members and two guests participated in the bird count, and we had a pretty good day. We were missing some of our more experienced birders due to illness and holiday travel, but everyone stepped up to fill in the gaps.

As is our custom, the count was compiled at the traditional spaghetti supper hosted by **Pauline Blackard**. Thanks so much for your hospitality and sharing your lovely home with us, Pauline. As far as the count, **species count was 84** and the number of individuals has not yet been tabulated. Stay tuned for updates.

Thanks everyone for your participation in the count and for bringing food to the supper.

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance: \$ 600.96
Memorial Fund Balance: \$ 4,141.28

(The Memorial Fund includes an amount of \$925, granted to the Chapter by Audubon Foundation of Texas for work on the bird blind. We also need to pay for our calendars, which will come out of the Checking Account.)

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER: As I paid for the **stamps, paper and ink for printing** and sending this newsletter, I was reminded again that this is our **largest expense**. We could do a lot with the money we would save if this newsletter were a document that was read online. If you have an email address and would agree to **get a link to the newsletter** each month rather than a paper copy, please let Carol know by calling **936-295-3958**, or send your email address to carol_reed@sbcglobal.net.

Bird Blind Update: The bird blind is still in the **forefront of our conservation goals** this spring and we hope to have the main platform completed before **summer 2011**. The bird blind committee has been working with Huntsville State Park officials over the past few months searching for the best possible location for the blind and a superb locale has been chosen. In August, we received a bid from Americorps (a company often used by the park to build piers and boardwalks) for \$8,000, which was beyond our funds. After exploring other options with local builders, we determined the expertise of Americorps was needed for this type of blind so near the water. We met with an Americorps representative at the location in early December 2010 and are currently **finalizing a contract** with them for the **basic pier and beam work**. Volunteers from Huntsville Audubon will complete the decking and short trail needed to access the blind. This will constitute **Phase 1** of the construction of the blind, which we hope to have completed by this summer. **Phase 2** consists of assembly of the roof and walls by volunteers and will take place **as funds become available**.

Upcoming Events:

- **Rockport Trip** to see Whooping Cranes, weekend of January 29, 2011.
- **Great Backyard Bird Count**, 2/18 – 2/21/2011.
- **High Island** trip in April 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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