



March 2009

President's Perspective

Love this rain!!! I enjoyed our brief encounter with warmer spring weather over the last couple of weeks, but nothing is better than this brief rainy spell we've had! The wildflowers and our yards and gardens will be happy for a while at least.

On a more somber note, we are all saddened by the passing of our dear friend, Dr. Jimmie Long. He was a charter member of our chapter and our CBC dinner host for many years. He will be missed. If you have a favorite memory of Dr. Long, please jot it down and get it to me for use in a feature in next month's newsletter. 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
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Vice-President	Lea Cornelius	291-7946
Secretary	Paula Foreman	291-7123
Treasurer/ Membership	Carol Reed	295-3958

Committee Chairs

Programs	Board Members	291-6885
Field Trips	Jon Muncrief	435-9937
Conservation	Anne-Marie Prouty	295-3958
Newsletter	Joan Prouty	291-7204
Publicity/Scrapbk	Joy Tinsley	295-6874
Hospitality	Glenn Coker	291-6154
Edu/Jr. Audubon	Tom Stafford	295-1403
Liaison: Schls/Conserv./Jr. Aud.	– Paula Foreman	
Web Master	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937

Our Website: www.huntsvilleaudubon.org

Programs and Events

March Meeting: Thursday, March 19th, 2009 at **Fire Station #2**, 2109 Sam Houston Avenue. Supper, 6:30 p.m. followed by our program at 7:00 p.m...

Program: Our program this month will be presented by Mark Klym, Information Specialist with the [Wildlife Diversity Program](#) of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. You may recall that Mark has given a number of excellent programs to us, including programs on bluebirds and hummingbirds. This month, Mark will speak to us on "Water and The Future of Wildlife in Texas". His presentation will focus on the role, quality and quantity of water needed for wildlife in the future and the plans and strategies TPWD is developing to ensure we fulfill our role in providing wildlife recreational activities for current and future generations of Texans. Please make plans to attend this interesting and important program.

Supper: The menu for our February 19th meeting is Tacos!!! The board will supply the main dish and a few other items. As always, side dishes, salads and desserts are always welcome.

Field Trip / Birding 101: The field trip for March takes on a different shape than what we might be used to. We have had requests for a "beginning" birding class. Our initial meeting for this undertaking will be on March 28th, 8:30 a.m., at Eastham-Thomason Park picnic area. We are going to conduct it as an outdoor classroom event. This is a perfect time of year to offer the first class since migration should be starting over the next few weeks. In the first class, we will cover the basics: Choosing binoculars and field guides; how to use binoculars for those who might be a bit confused by the "diopter" setting and other quirks of the equipment; what to look for when identifying an unfamiliar bird; making field notes; information on how to identify birds by their songs and calls. That may not sound like much, but we may not get it all covered! In April, we will continue the adventure with our field trip to the Texas coast for spring migration. The class will be taught by our president, Brenda Muncrief. Brenda is a volunteer instructor for the Texas Parks and Wildlife "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" program where she teaches Introduction to Birdwatching and Nature Journaling.

Nominating Committee: It's that time again! Our nominating committee will be working between now and our April meeting to put together a slate of officers for our 2009-10 chapter year. If you have a desire to serve as a board member or committee chair, please call Brenda at 936-435-9937 or Carol at 936-295-3958. We will put you in touch with the committee chair. If you receive a call from the committee, please consider serving our chapter in this capacity. It is a rewarding experience!

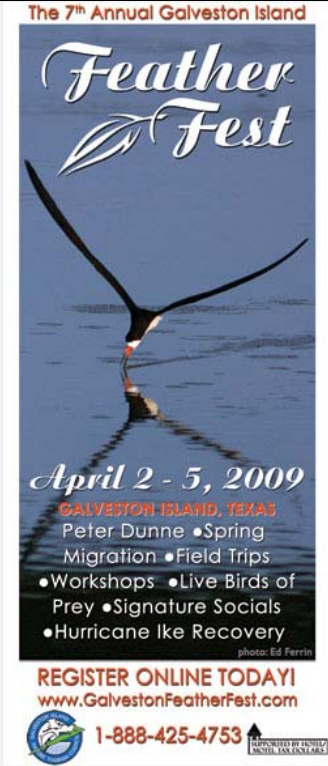
CONGRATULATIONS! Anne-Marie Prouty, Huntsville Audubon member and Master's candidate at SHSU, presented on her thesis "The Effects of Urbanization on Artificial Songbird Nests" at the Texas Academy of Science's annual conference in Junction, Texas on March 6th. You may recall that Anne-Marie spoke at our February meeting, giving us a program on her thesis research. We're proud to report that Ms. Prouty won awards for Best Abstract and Oral Presentation at the conference. Congratulations, Anne-Marie!

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP/CONSERVATION REPORT: Some Huntsville Audubon members met for a combination field trip and conservation project February 21st at Eastham-Thomason City Park on 7th Avenue in Huntsville. Members Jon Muncrief, Pauline Blackard, Anne-Marie Prouty, Don Ko, Terry Brackeen and Carol Reed erected two bluebird houses along the cedar split rail fences which have recently been built at the trail entrances. Pauline even recruited the help of a couple of kids and their uncle from the playground to help. After the bluebird houses were up, some of the members explored along the mulch trail for awhile since the rain seemed to be holding off. UPDATE: City horticulturist David Zeller reported seeing numerous bluebird pairs in the area near the bluebird houses so we may soon have nesting bluebirds. UPDATE#2: David said that new color trailmaps will soon be available for Eastham-Thomason Park.

Great Backyard Bird Count: The Great Backyard Bird Count breakfast was great fun. A BIG THANKS to Pauline Blackard for hosting us again in her beautiful home. We saw lots of birds in Pauline's wonderful yard and on the lake out back. If you are interested in seeing the results for this year's count, go to the website <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/> where you'll find all kinds of interesting information and a great map of the participation this year.

Electronic Newsletter: We have been sending the newsletter electronically for a couple of months now, and it seems to be working well for those receiving it. If you are having any difficulties with it or if you would like to begin receiving the online version of the newsletter, please let Carol Reed know by calling 936-295-3958.

SOME UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST!!

	<p>Huntsville Audubon Field Trips</p> <p>Our March field trip will be on 3/28/09, and will be the first of our Birding 101 classes. This will be held in the picnic area of Eastham-Thomason Park.</p> <p>Our April field trip will be our annual trip to the Texas Coast for spring migration. The tentative date for that outing is April 18th. More information will appear in next month's newsletter or on our website.</p> <p>http://www.huntsvilleaudubon.org/</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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