



March 2010

President's Perspective

Spring has sprung! The trees are leafing out, and the redbuds and dogwoods are coming into bloom! This is my favorite time of year, and I probably say that every year in this space! It's especially nice this year after the cold winter we've had. The dawn chorus has become noticeably louder over the past week, and the eastern bluebirds have claimed their box in my yard. The Carolina chickadees and tufted titmice are looking over the other two boxes.

We have lots going on the next few months including our regular meetings, fossil hunting our High Island trip and our annual picnic! I look forward to seeing you at the meetings and on our field trips!
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	OPEN	
Treasurer/ Membership	Carol Reed	295-3958

Committee Chairs

Programs	Paul Culp	295-3404
Field Trips	Terry Brackeen	661-6531
Conservation	Anne-Marie Prouty	295-3958
Newsletter	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937
Publicity/Scrapbk	Joy Tinsley	293-1918
Hospitality	Jon Muncrief & Glenn Coker	435-9937
Edu/Jr. Audubon	Tom Stafford	295-1403
Web Master	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937

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

Programs and Events

March Meeting: Our March meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 18, 2010**, with supper at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting and program to begin at 7:00 p.m. Our menu will begin with a **meat-and-cheese tray** for making sandwiches. There will be condiments, chips, bread, lettuce and pickles provided. As always, additional side dishes, salads and desserts are welcomed!

Program: Birds of Costa Rica, presented by our own Victor and Marion Czaja!

Victor and Marion have both been birding for many years. Victor has 22 years of experience that started when Ed Kutac, author of Birding in Texas, taught him many of the basics and beyond in their weekly birding tours around Austin. Ed also led tours all around Texas. This encouraged Victor (and later Marion who was taught by Victor) to expand to tropical sites such as Costa Rica. This last March/April, Victor and Marion went on a birding expedition with birding author and guide, Richard Garrigues. It was their third visit to Costa Rica and included some areas that they had not yet explored.

The presentation on **Birding in Costa Rica** will include birds that migrate to Texas and beyond as well as some stunning birds found in the tropics only. A good many of "our" warblers migrate from Costa Rica to the States to nest during the summer. Some of the other birds do as well. Examples of these will be presented and discussed.

March Field Trip: On Saturday, March 20th, we will **Hunt for Fossils** (shells, coral, shark teeth, gar teeth, squid beaks) Eocene-age (36-56 million years before present) with the **Pineywoods Gem and Mineral Society!!** We'll meet at Shipley's Donuts in the old Walmart parking lot at 9:00 a.m. and caravan to the site. Be sure to **PACK A LUNCH!**

We'll be going to **Whiskey Bridge**, just west of Bryan, on the Brazos River. There will be a parking area on northwest side of bridge. We will take the path down and to north. You can bring gardening tools, but some are very fragile and should be dug out with the use of a pocketknife. You can take big chunks and wash them out of the mud, in which case you'll need a bucket.

Our **APRIL field trip** will be our annual outing to High Island for spring migration! And, May is just around the corner when we will have our **annual picnic in the park!**

Nominating Committee: The nominating committee, composed of **Joan Prouty, Pauline Blackard, and Terry Brackeen**, has been working diligently already to get a slate of officers for our 2010-2011 Chapter year. Several people have already stepped up and taken offices! Please be open-minded about the possibility of helping out next year when you are called.

Update: Our friend and long-time member, Roy Kveton, is back in the hospital here in Huntsville. Please remember Roy in your thoughts and prayers.

Green Tip for March:

From Anne Staples: "Both Mayflower Bakery and Shipley Donuts (in the old Walmart parking lot) sell plastic containers that their baking supplies come in. These are very nice and most have good, tight-fitting lids. I have gotten two different sizes, and the prices are low. Shipley Donuts closes at 12:00 noon on some or all days. Get a good deal price-wise, and help recycle!"

Anne also brought to our attention that the City Recycling Center is now taking plastic #1-7 instead of just #1 and 2.

February Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance: \$ 786.74
Memorial Fund Balance: \$3,204.37

Bird Blind Update:

Anne Prouty, Carol Reed, and Brenda Muncrief met with the Huntsville State Park officials on February 26th to continue discussions regarding the location of the Jack Prouty Memorial Bird Blind. Picking a location for the blind is probably the most important decision we will make in this whole process. We must pick a location that will 1) enhance bird viewing at a particular site 2) have consistent bird viewing in all seasons, 3) encompass the park's avian diversity, 4) be accessible to interested viewers and photographers, but not too close to high traffic areas, and 5) will not have a negative impact on wildlife or natural habitat. We believe we have settled on a location that meets all these requirements and are now in the process of getting approval from Texas Parks and Wildlife. We hope to begin the construction phase soon.

Scrapbooks: Joy Tinsley has our scrapbooks caught up to date, and they will be on the tables at our meetings. Please take a few minutes to look over our history and **give Joy a big THANKS** for all her hard work as our publicity and scrapbook chair for the last few years. She has done an awesome job!

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

This logo is always in our newsletter and on our website. We are in the process of applying for a grant again this year which will come from Earth Share funds. Please visit their site to learn more about this amazing organization.



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



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