

PROPOSED BIRDING BLIND AT HUNTSVILLE STATE PARK

BY HUNTSVILLE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Featured Species: waterfowl, wading birds, songbirds, woodpeckers, small mammals, alligators

Location: Huntsville State Park, Huntsville, Texas

Habitat: Lake Raven

General Description: This permanent indoor viewing and photography blind would be camouflaged in the vegetation at the water's edge of beautiful Lake Raven at Huntsville State Park for close up viewing of the park's wildlife at the lake. This blind would integrate lake community viewing as well as woodland songbird habitat by incorporating one-way windows and photography holes for visitors to view the habitat without alerting wildlife to human presence. The blind would hold 1-3 photographers and up to 8 birdwatchers. Viewers would be able to see up and down the northwest arm of the lake and into the wooded areas surrounding the structure as well.

Construction: The 24 x 12 ft, one story, metal roofed structure would be ADA accessible and located about 30 feet off the hiking only portion of the Prairie Branch Loop trail at the water's edge. This proposed location is about a 10 minute walk from the trailhead. We hope to use Trex deck boards, and Hardiplank siding to resist water damage by occasional flooding.

Cost: Huntsville Audubon funds and volunteers will construct the blind and oversee maintenance of the blind and feeders.

Goal: To provide visitors with a unique, close-up view of birds and other wildlife while minimizing disturbance to wildlife.

Target Visitor/Use: Park visitors, students, nature enthusiasts, bird watchers, artists, teachers, families, hikers, senior citizens, and general public.

Photos: Below are some photographs of other blinds that appeal to us as the type of blind we think would work best for this lake-side location and habitat.

