



September 2011

President's Perspective

Wow! Is it my imagination or did the temperature actually drop a degree? If so, not a second too soon. And while we're at it, how about a little rain? Well, it is September and time for cooler temperatures and a new Audubon season. We're planning some great programs and field trips so please come join us. I want to thank everyone serving as officers and chairpersons this year. Your service to Huntsville Audubon is a direct contribution to our mission of local education and conservation. We do have a vacancy in the Field Trip Chair position and would appreciate some help with that committee. So, we'll see you on the 15th...and pray for rain!

Carol Reed

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	Carol Reed	295-3958
Email:	carol_reed@sbcglobal.net	
Vice-President	Ron Boddicker	594-9838
Secretary	Deanna Boddicker	594-9838
Treasurer & Membership	Carol Reed	295-3958

Committee Chairs

Programs	Anne Prouty	295-3958
Field Trips	OPEN	
Conservation	Joe Smith	
Newsletter	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937
Publicity & Scrapbook	Sharyn Pezant	294-9408
Hospitality	Joy Tinsley	293-1918
Edu/Jr. Audubon	Tom Stafford	295-1403
Web Master	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937

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

Programs and Events

September Meeting: Our meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011, at Fire Station #2. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. with a light supper, followed by our meeting and program at 7:00. The menu this month is **King Ranch Chicken and King Ranch Tuna!!** Did they say **TUNA?** Yes, we're doing a version for the non-beef and chicken eaters. As always, side dishes and desserts are a welcomed addition to our menus. Variety is, after all, the spice of life!!

September Program: Birds of Costa Rica by Rick Bello

Rick Bello is a professor in the Communication Studies Department at SHSU who, although he enjoys his work, would almost always rather be birding. Originally from the great and birdy state of Louisiana, he has been an avid birder for the last 27 years, a hobby he was introduced to by a friend while teaching at Texas A&M in the early 80s. He enjoys both local patch birding in and around Huntsville, which is like "visiting with old friends," as well as going to faraway places and "making new friends." As part of that pursuit, he has birded, hiked, and camped in places as far flung as Alaska and Trinidad & Tobago, and many places in between. He will be making a presentation to the Huntsville Audubon Society on September 15 about his trip to Costa Rica. Please join us for a fascinating program by Rick Bello

September Field Trip: Birding at Huntsville State Park

Our first field trip of the new season will be right in our own back yard. Fall migration is already underway and we will try to make the most of it with a morning birding trip to Huntsville State Park. Tanagers and Orioles have already been seen in the area. We will meet at the old lodge down by Lake Raven at 8 am on Saturday, September 17. Please bring your binoculars, walking shoes and insect repellent. Donuts, kolaches, coffee and orange juice will be provided...maybe with something added! Even if you are a novice birder, we will have some old pros in attendance to help you sharpen your skills. Remember, the entrance fee into the park is \$4. See you there.

Future Attractions!!!:

Here are some of the events we are planning for the coming months.

- Jimmy Long Memorial Christmas Bird Count (December 17, 2011)
- Wildlife Rehab Program
- Whooping Crane Birding Boat Trip in Rockport, Texas (Jan)
- High Island Birding Trip (Apr)
- Great Backyard Birdcount (Feb)

Be sure to keep watching our website and newsletter for the dates for these events.

Fair on the Square Time!!! Huntsville's *Fair on the Square* takes place this year on Saturday, October 1st. We will have our booth in our usual spot, Space 142, and will need members to sign up for two-hour shifts throughout the day. We need four people for set-up and teardown. This will be discussed at the meeting, and a sign-up sheet will be circulated with the available times during the day. We will be selling calendars, t-shirts, bird boxes, and bird guides this year, as well as handing out brochures of interest to passers-by. Please be ready to take a shift during the day to help our Chapter in this important fundraiser. For more info, please call Carol Reed at 936.295.3958.

Stage 2 Mandatory Drought Restrictions:

The City of Huntsville announced on September 9th that mandatory water restrictions were now in effect for customers of the City's water system. The average daily water usage for the previous 10 days exceeded 10.6 million gallons, the trigger point for the mandatory outdoor water use restrictions. Residential customers with addresses ending in even numbers should water on even days of the month only. Customers with addresses ending in odd numbers should water on odd days of the month only. All watering should take place after 7 pm and before 10 am. For more information, call the City of Huntsville at (936) 294-5700



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/>

Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance: \$ 713.88
Memorial Fund Balance: \$ 4,157.51

(The Memorial Fund includes an amount of \$925, granted to the Chapter by Audubon Foundation of Texas for work on the bird blind.)

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS: In addition to September marking the beginning of our Audubon season, it is also Chapter dues renewal time! Huntsville Audubon, with the approval of National Audubon Society, offers chapter-only memberships in addition to National memberships.

A number of years ago, National Audubon changed the way they calculated the share that local chapters received from national dues. As a result, local chapters received less than they once did and many faced financial difficulties. At the request of many chapters and members, National Audubon began allowing chapters to offer chapter-only memberships, in which the entire amount of the dues is retained at the local level for local programs and projects.

While Huntsville Audubon is pleased to offer both Local and National memberships to interested members, we do not advocate one over the other. It is entirely up to the preference of the member and both have their value. National Audubon Society is a dedicated wildlife organization with an impressive history of conservation advocacy, certainly deserving of support. Membership in National Audubon entitles members to all the rights and privileges of both local and chapter membership, including the award winning Audubon magazine and Huntsville Audubon's "The Raven" newsletter.

However, some members prefer that their donation dollars remain in their own community. Huntsville Audubon Chapter dues are \$20 a year, renewable in September of each year and the entire amount remains with our local chapter. Chapter members will receive "The Raven" newsletter.



Huntsville Audubon
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