



April 2015

President's Perspective:

April is the month when we nominate officers for the next Audubon season. I and several other officers and board chairs have held their positions for a number of years. I am happy to stand for re-election as I suspect some of our other board members may be, but I think that some new leadership contributes to the improved health of the organization. I also am serving as president of another service organization next year so will have increased time constraints. Please consider standing for election for one of the officer or board positions of our great organization. Please feel free to call me if you would like to discuss this.

--Carol

APRIL MEETING

Thursday, April 16, 2015
 City of Huntsville Service Center
 448 Hwy. 75 North
 6:00 Light Supper
 6:30 Program VISTORS WELCOME

Our **menu** this month is **assorted sandwiches**. Additions of salads, sides and desserts are appreciated.

PROGRAM: "Water, Water, where's the Water" by Mark Klym, coordinator of the Texas Hummingbird Roundup and Texas Wildscapes programs at Texas Parks and Wildlife. The program explores our gardening habits and how, with a few simple changes, we can ensure water and wildlife for future generations.

Mark grew up in Canada where he developed a love for the outdoors – spending time fishing, birding and hiking. His special interest in hummingbirds developed early, when he found a male Ruby-throated Hummingbird exploring the plants in his grandfather's greenhouse.

Mark received baccalaureate degrees in Biological Science and in Fisheries & Wildlife Management from Lake Superior State University in Sault Ste. Marie, MI. He followed the hummingbirds to Texas in 1999 to work with Texas Parks and Wildlife. He is coauthor "Hummingbirds of Texas" by Texas A&M Press, editor of the Eye on Nature and Texas Hummer Newsletters and author or editor of several booklets and publications from TPWD.

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	Joe Smith	295-7958
Secretary	Lea Cornelius	
Treasurer	Sharyn Pezant	294-9408
Membership	Sharyn Pezant	294-9408

Committee Chairs

Programs	Board	
Field Trips	Paul Culp	
Conservation	Anne Prouty	581-4761
Newsletter	Diane Neudorf	291-1770
Web Master	Brenda Muncrief	435-9937
Publicity & Scrapbook	Sharyn Pezant	294-9408
Hospitality	Joy Tinsley	293-1918
Edu/Jr. Audubon	Joan Prouty	

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

March Field Trip Recap

The dogwood hike on March 28th revealed that dogwoods are making a comeback after the devastation resulting from the summer of 2011. We hiked about three miles on the Huntsville Section of the Lone Star Hiking Trail, just to the bridge over Alligator Branch (with a carving assuring us that it was "troll free") and back to the parking lot at the trailhead on I-45. Marion Czaja did not hike with us, but did her own hike as per my description.

April Field Trips

We have two field trips scheduled this month. There will be a "local" field trip **Saturday afternoon, April 18th**. The local trip will be to a nature preserve on Lake Livingston, and I'll have a sign-up sheet at the meeting for those interested; if you are not able to attend the meeting, please call me at (936) 295-3404 for details. – PAUL

Saturday, April 25. High Island is THE place to be to see all kinds of migrants as they stop here on their long trip north in the spring. Many have flown over the Gulf of Mexico and are exhausted. One of our fantastic local birders, Rick Bello, will be joining us, helping us ID some of these birds we rarely get to see! Please contact Anne at 936-581-4761 or anneprouty@sbcglobal.net for details. We usually leave early morning and get back early evening. Note: These birds will stop elsewhere too, sometimes your back yard! Be sure to have food and water available to them as they are often dehydrated and hungry!

Bird Blind Dedication and Annual Picnic!

Save the Date! After our deluge of rain, we have rescheduled our dedication of the Jack Prouty Memorial Bird Blind to coincide with our annual year-end picnic! Our new date is **Saturday, May 16th at 11:00 am** at Huntsville State Park. We will have our dedication first, followed by our usual fare of hotdogs and hamburgers, sides and desserts! We will be in Raven Hill Campground, but due to limited parking, we will also have shuttles from the big parking lot across from the Nature Center. Be sure and tell the gate attendant you are there for the bird blind dedication and Audubon will pick up your entrance fee! (Normally \$5).

Treasurer's Report

Checking Account 4/3/2015: \$799.68

Memorial Conservation Fund Balance as of 4/3/2015: \$1,174.56

Donations Needed. Each month the chapter has been donating a 25 pound bag of black oil sunflower seeds to Gibbs Pre-K Center to fill the bird feeders located in the Garden at the school. The seed has been purchased with funds donated from the chapter members. At this time the funds have been depleted. Please consider donating to this project. Thank you for your continued generosity in supporting this project. --Sharyn

Species Focus: The Gray Catbird.

I have always loved catbirds. The cat-like mew call for which they are named is unmistakable. They aren't the showiest of birds and much of the time they like to stay hidden in thick understory but they have real personality. They are slender birds with a solid gray body, black cap, rusty under tail coverts and striking black eyes. A relative of the Northern Mockingbird, they are also mimics of other birds and their songs are a ramble of many sounds sometimes lasting up to 10 min. If you have a good amount of shrubs in your yard you may get one nesting. Their nests are bulky, made from twigs and sometimes they incorporate trash as well. They seem to have a fondness for plastics, which may resemble snake skin. Their eggs are a beautiful turquoise color with typical clutch sizes of 4-6 eggs. They feed on insects and berries. They winter along the gulf coast and into Mexico, central and South America. So this spring keep your ears open for the catbird and if you are lucky you might find one nesting.

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