December 2018

Board’s Bird’s Eye View:

We are excited again this year to participate in the National Audubon Society’s “Christmas Bird Count” (CBC) in Walker County as part of our Huntsville Audubon Society’s (HAS) contribution to the conservation efforts nationwide. The CBC had its origins on Christmas Day in 1900 when a group of observers and scientists became concerned about the number of birds being hunted as part of a longstanding holiday tradition in some locations and declining bird populations. Rather than hunt birds, ornithologist Frank M. Chapman proposed a Christmas Bird Census instead. At the turn of the 20th century many other scientists and individuals like ourselves were starting to place more emphasis on conservation efforts (wildlife and nature). Each November/December, local chapters of the Audubon Society encourage their members to participate and also invite those that may not be members such as kids, neighbors, friends and family to join in this fun endeavor. From December 14th through January 5th, Audubon volunteers nationwide will brave wind, snow, and rain to take part in the effort. The Audubon Societies and other organizations use the data collected in this long-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations and to help guide conservation action. Because of the always busy holidays, this year we have chosen Saturday, January 5th as our Huntsville Audubon CBC day. See more information below.

December Meeting – no scheduled meeting

Please note as a result of the holidays and as in years past, there will be NO MONTHLY HUNTSVILLE AUDUBON MEETING IN DECEMBER.

Our next monthly HAS meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 17th at 6PM.
**Huntsville Audubon Dues**

We still have several Huntsville Audubon Chapter only members on our mailing list that have not paid their annual dues for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. Your (dues) contribution helps fund the monthly newsletter printing and mailing expense, various projects, and in some cases the cost of our guest speakers at our monthly meetings. All dues stay with the local chapter. You can print the membership form from our website, fill it out, and mail it to our post office box or bring it to a monthly meeting.

**Treasury Report**

HAS account balance: $1854.24  
Birdseed: $59.27  
Donations for Jr Audubon/ Education/ Memorial: $26.82

**Facebook Page**

Thanks to all of you that have been sharing your pictures and birding adventures on our Facebook page. This social sharing allows all of us to keep up to date on birding status, walks/hikes and other FYI birding activities of our members and friends alike that are of interest to all.

**Books on Birding/Nature:**

As many of you know our own HAS member, Kermit Cummings wrote a book a few years back entitled “A Backyard Birding Adventure: What’s in your Yard?” It is an excellent book with illustrations that is a great way to introduce the younger generation and their parents to the wonderful world of birds and nature. It can make a great Christmas gift and is available online on his website; kermitcummings.com.  
Each month we will recommend books on nature and birding that may be of interest to our members. This month our own Ann Staples recommended a book entitled “Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom” by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This author combines her Native American and scientific views to the natural world and includes her own personal experiences.

**Winter Birding – (From the Houston Audubon website)**

Winter on the Upper Texas Coast is an exceptional time of year for birding, full of exciting opportunities. Gulls, hawks, sparrows and other wintering land birds are favorite targets. For beginning birders, it’s a great time of year to get started with fewer leaves on the trees to obscure sightings.

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**Huntsville Audubon**

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