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.

Upcoming Events

Monthly Club Meeting:

**Thursday, March 19th**

6:00 pm – snacks and chat

6:30 pm – guest presentation

**St. Stephens Episcopal Church**

5019 Sam Houston Ave, Huntsville, TX

(map & directions on website)

**Presentation**

Birding Ecuador

**Speaker**

Rick Bello is a professor of communication studies at SHSU. Rick has birded and taken photos of birds from Alaska to Brazil. Other trips include Costa Rica, Belize, Panama, and Ecuador. He also enjoys birding locally.

**Visitors Welcome**

Please bring a snack to share. Bottled water will be provided.

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**Jr. Audubon Event – It’s a Jungle Out There**

**Tuesday, March 10th**

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Huntsville Public Library – 1219 13th Street

*See the Feb newsletter for more info*

In an instant, Carol knew she was doing way too much for the birds.
Our March presenter, Rick Bello, will speak to us about the birds of Ecuador.

Pictured here, the Andean Condor, is the national bird of Ecuador. As its name suggests, it’s found in the Andes mountains. The Andes are the longest continental mountain range in the world and run along the western edge of South America.

A huge bird, the Andean Condor can have a wingspan of 10 feet and weigh up to 33 pounds, although the average weight is 25 pounds. To give you an idea of its massive size, Turkey Vultures have a wingspan of 6 feet and weigh two to five pounds.

Due to its large size, Andean Condors prefer to live in windy areas where air currents keep them aloft.

Vultures are classified into two groups: Old World vultures and New World vultures. Old World vultures are in the Accipitridae family along with eagles, hawks, and kites. New World vultures are scavengers and are what we know in the Americas as vultures, not hawks. Condors are New World vultures, and there are only two species in the world. North America has the California Condor; South America has the Andean Condor.

Listed with the IUCN as near threatened, the Andean Condor has faced many challenges over the years. In decades past, it was widely hunted by farmers who mistakenly believed they killed their livestock. Today it is threatened by habitat loss and lead poisoning from eating carcasses (and waste parts) left by hunters. Lead poisoning is a widespread major threat for many species of wildlife in North and South America.

Several countries have implemented captive breeding programs to save the Andean Condor.

Photo taken in Peru by Pedro Szekely.

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**Upcoming Birding Events**

**TOS Spring Meeting  April 30-May 3** The spring TOS meeting will be held in Beaumont. The headquarters for the event will be the MCM Elegante Hotel and Conference Center. All indoor activities will take place there, and field trips will leave from there. Trips are available to 10 Texas counties and two Louisiana parishes. Registration opens March 12 at 6 a.m. on the TOS website. Have two field trips in mind for each day in case your first choice is full. The fee is $90 for TOS members, $125 for non-members. A one-year membership is included. For more info, go to tendorbirds.org and click on Current Newsletter.

**Galveston FeatherFest  April 16-19** Galveston Island is one of the top locations in the country for birding, especially during spring migration. FeatherFest activities include birding within the island’s 32 miles, High Island, Bolivar Peninsula, Galveston Bay (mainland side), Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, and more. There are birding field trips and workshops, photography field trips and workshops, FledglingFest for the kids, evening social events, and free raptor shows. Registration is now open. You must register by April 12th. For more info, see Galvestonfeatherfest.com.
More Upcoming Birding Events

3rd Annual South Llano River Birding Festival  April 24-26  At South Llano River State Park brought to you by Texas Parks & Wildlife. A smaller festival with activities such as Golden-cheeked Warbler hike, birding the riparian, birding around town, birding by golf cart, mist netting and bird banding. For more info, see tpwd.texas.gov/calendar/south-llano-river/2nd-annual-south-llano-river-birding-festival

Birdiest Festival in America  April 22-26  In Corpus Christi, there will be guided field trips to regional birding hot spots and private ranches, nature photography, vendor tradeshows, bird walks, and The Raptor Project presentations. Last year, 262 species were seen. Keynote speaker is author, illustrator, and ornithologist David Allen Sibley. Registration is now open. For more info, see birdiestfestival.org.

Davis Mountains Hummingbird Celebration  August 19-23  In Fort Davis, there will be guest speakers, educational programs, hummingbird viewings, hummingbird banding, field trips, trade shows, and silent auctions. For more info, see davismountainshummingbirdcelebration.com or call 432-426-3015

32nd Annual Rockport-Fulton HummerBird Celebration  September 17-20  Hummingbird speaker programs (more than a dozen), nature-inspired and birding field trips, hummer bus trips, photography classes, self-guided hummer tours, outdoor exhibits, over 75 vendors, malls and food booths. For more info, see Rockport-fulton.org/Hummer_About_the_Celebration.

Huntsville Audubon Facebook Page Needs You
A few hard-working individuals consistently support the HAS Facebook page with their picture postings, comments, likes, and shares.
Perhaps you don’t take photos. That’s okay. Our Facebook Page could still use your help. We would love to hear your point-of-view. Did you know each Facebook interaction extends the reach to six new people? Help keep Facebook going by participating. It only takes a minute, and you’re guaranteed to enjoy some of the wonderful pictures you see there. Below are some great shots that were recently posted.