



Texas Audubon Society
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Dear Texas Audubon Friends,

The good news is Audubon conservation efforts really work!

Twenty years ago, Brown Pelican colonies were almost completely annihilated in Audubon's coastal sanctuaries. Today, due to significant increases in the Brown Pelican's population, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering the removal of these natural treasures from the endangered species list in Texas. Over the past decade, dedicated Audubon wardens have helped nesting pelicans prosper in areas like our Sundown Island Sanctuary. Success stories like these are the result of commitment and vigilance on the part of concerned citizens and organizations like Texas Audubon.

The bad news is that Texas' incredible diversity of wildlife and habitat face more dangers today than ever before. Texans need to open their eyes to the vanishing splendor that surrounds them and make a decision to help.

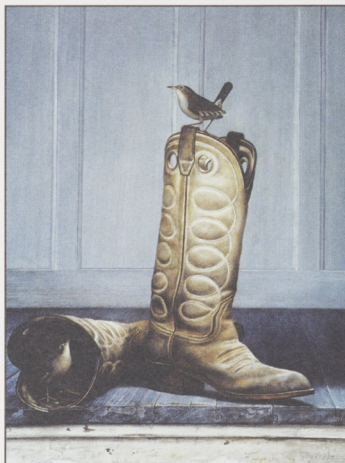
The Audubon Society encompasses a vast network of conservation initiatives extending from the grassroots level to the national and international level. Texas Audubon Society is Texas' very own Audubon organization. We support 20 local Texas chapters and act as a champion for Texans and their environment. In 1999, Audubon will commemorate its 100th year of preserving Texas' natural heritage. It's been a century of conservation excellence that continues to gain momentum.

Here is what Texas Audubon is accomplishing throughout the state:

 **Important Bird Area Program** - The IBA program will accentuate vital bird habitat statewide in conjunction with private, corporate and agency partners. Essential to the IBA program, in a state that is 97 percent privately owned, is the formation of partnerships with private landowners. Program goals include public education, outreach, eco-tourism, land stewardship techniques and conservation easements.

 **Sabal Palm Sanctuary Bi-national Program** - Sabal Palm Sanctuary has long been a jewel of South Texas situated on the newly designated "National Heritage River", the Rio Grande. This last remaining pocket of indigenous palm forest on the Mexican border provides a great international opportunity for community building and outreach. The bi-national education program strives to involve children from both Texas and Mexico in environmental learning leading to more responsible citizenry and family involvement in this most rapidly growing area of Texas.

 **Audubon Ambassadors** - Currently in place along the Texas coast, Texas Audubon's Ambassador program promotes harmonious living between colonial waterbirds and the rapidly expanding human population. Audubon sanctuaries host the largest Roseate Spoonbill and Reddish Egret populations in the world. Audubon Ambassadors are trained, concerned volunteers who work with Audubon wardens to protect and manage these important areas. Look for the Ambassadors volunteer program to expand across Texas in the future.



Receive the official Texas Audubon tee-shirt imprinted with Stuart and Scott Gentling's beautiful image, "House Wrens." Read on for details.

 **Education Policy** - The executive director of Texas Audubon sits on the executive committee of the Texas Environmental Education Partnership (TEEP). Comprised of over 270 representatives from business, agencies, non-profit organizations and the education field, this group is taking the lead in establishing environmental education standards for the state. Representatives from Audubon testified before the state legislative Environmental Regulation Sub-committee regarding environmental education.

 **Junior Audubon** - Tomorrow's leaders are today's youth, and Texas Audubon recognizes the need to invest in the future. Texas Junior Audubon is a unique state-level education program that builds on the strengths of Audubon chapters and volunteer support. Junior Audubon is completing an activity guide and children's story for use in schools, with youth groups and at nature centers. Field trip funding, educational supplies, newsletters, special events and volunteer-led presentations for children are all included in the Junior Audubon program. With 80% of Texas youth living in urban environments, the need for outdoor learning and appreciation has never been greater.

In the year to come, Texas Audubon's agenda is brimming with many more programs and activities. As the 100th anniversary nears, we have a year of special events planned. One of the most exciting is a travelling exhibit of paintings by Stuart and Scott Gentling of Fort Worth. For those who are familiar with their work, it is obvious why Audubon and the Gentlings are a natural team. No other contemporary artist captures the spirit and beauty of nature in the tradition of John James Audubon better than these two brothers.

As a special incentive for supporting Texas Audubon this year, we're offering a beautifully designed shirt bearing a Gentling Brothers original image, "House Wrens." These shirts are available to individuals who give at least one dollar for each year of Audubon's presence in Texas (i.e. a minimum gift of \$100).

Can Texas Audubon Society look to you to answer the call? Every dollar donated to Texas Audubon stays in Texas to protect our unique and breathtaking habitat. We are the state office of the National Audubon Society, but we have our own local board of directors and we're nearing fiscal autonomy as a state entity. As a fledgling organization approaching our second full year of operation, we need your help more than ever.

Our programs and ambitions are as vast as our state. We want to create a culture of conservation that includes every Texan. We are succeeding every day, but cannot continue without your financial support. Your contribution and care will help us soar.

An investment in Texas Audubon is an investment in the natural future of Texas!

Sincerely,



Catriona Glazebrook
Executive Director