

# Coastal Stewardship Program

## Adopt-An-Island and Make a Difference!



**O**ur colonial waterbirds nest on 80 Audubon-managed coastal islands where mortality factors are ever present – some natural, some not so natural. Ideally, these birds would be free from an unbalanced population of predators such as raccoons, coyotes, feral hogs and fire ants. However, water levels are always changing, providing access for these invaders to wreak havoc on island habitat, and destroy nesting birds, eggs, and young chicks. Human disturbance,

invasive plant species, and erosion also add to the myriad of threats to our 13,000 acres of island bird rookeries, which are leased from the State of Texas for management by Audubon Texas.

With your help, Audubon has been successfully managing colonial waterbird breeding grounds for more than 100 years - and we need your continued support. Please consider “adopting” an island and helping conserve and manage valuable habitat for nesting birds.

*Help Audubon protect one of these critical regions today*

### Upper Coast:

Wardens:

Bob Gallaway, Winnie Burkett and Joe Whitehead

Key species:

Black Skimmer, Brown Pelican, Roseate Spoonbill

Significant site:

North Deer Island (Galveston Bay)

Main threats:

Erosion, Fire ants, Human disturbance

### Central Coast:

Wardens:

David Durham, Chester Smith

Key species:

Black Skimmer, Reddish Egret, Great Blue Heron

Significant site:

Pelican Island (Corpus Christi Bay)

Main threats:

Human disturbance, Invasive plants, Erosion

### Lower Coast:

Wardens:

LeRoy Overstreet

Key species:

Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Tri-colored Heron

Significant site:

Green Island (Lower Laguna Madre)

Main threats:

Predators, Human disturbance

## Your generosity will help underwrite our Coastal Stewardship Program:

- **\$5,000**      **pays for one warden to monitor islands and conduct the bird population census**
- **\$2,500**      **pays for enhancement of nesting habitat, fire ant & predator control per region**
- **\$1,000**      **pays for boat operations and 10% of island leases**
- **\$ 500**        **pays for program outreach & education per region**

*Each donor will receive a profile of the coastal region they choose to adopt.*

*Donors of \$5,000 or more will receive a yearly report and an invitation to visit one of our islands.*

*The above levels do not include administrative costs or capital costs, such as boats and other equipment.*

**Please choose your area and level of support to adopt an Audubon-managed island today!**



# Audubon TEXAS

## Coastal Stewardship Program

For more than 100 years, Audubon has managed waterbird islands along the Texas coast. In all, we manage approximately 13,000 acres on over 80 islands that provide critical habitat for more than 20 species of colonial waterbirds and shorebirds. This land is either owned by Audubon or leased from the Texas General Land Office. These island sanctuaries are essential to the survival of 90 percent of Texas' coastal colonial waterbird colonies.

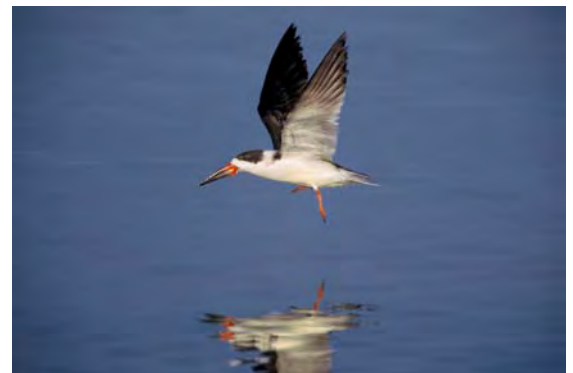


Some of our key islands include:

- **Green Island:** One of our most important coastal sites, this 114-acre island is a critical site for colonial waterbird populations at both state and world-wide levels. It is a site of global importance to Reddish Egrets, hosting the largest colony of Reddish Egrets in the world. Managed by Audubon since 1926, it continues to be an important site for their continued health and survival, as well as breeding Roseate Spoonbills and Great Blue Herons.
- **Sundown Island:** This 70-acre island in Matagorda Bay has been a key site for recovery of the Brown Pelican since the 1980s, when there were fewer than 10 breeding pairs. Today more than 80% of Texas' Brown Pelicans nest on Sundown, which is also home to populations of Reddish Egrets, Roseate Spoonbills, Black Skimmers, Royal, Caspian, and Sandwich Terns.
- **North Deer Island:** This 144-acre island is the most productive colonial waterbird island in Galveston Bay. Nineteen species of waterbirds nest on North Deer, including Brown Pelicans and threatened birds such as Reddish Egrets and White-faced Ibis.
- **Pelican Island:** This critical island in Corpus Christi Bay includes a substantial area of low vegetation for nesting Brown Pelicans, with approximately 200 pairs of Black Skimmers, and several hundred pairs of nesting Gull-billed, Royal, Sandwich, and Least Terns.



To conserve the important island habitats on our coast, Audubon also partners with many agencies and organizations along the coast, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, Houston and Corpus Christi Port Authorities, Houston Audubon Society, Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, and Ducks Unlimited. In addition, we work with Texas universities to research and analyze species population data and habitat trends.



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