



Bird's Eye View

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Brown Pelicans

were recently

removed from

the Endangered

Species List.

Audubon's Coastal

Stewardship

Program continues

to be essential to

their recovery and

preservation.

Photo: Brown Pelican, Bill Stripling



Dear Friends

I am excited to share with you some of our major accomplishments over the past year. As you know, the Brown Pelican was recently removed from the Endangered Species list. This monumental achievement represents the culmination of over 30 years of conservation work on the part of Audubon, our coastal wardens, and our partners.

In 2010, Audubon also coordinated major habitat maintenance and restoration on Sundown and Pelican Islands, recorded some of the highest Roseate Spoonbill numbers ever on Green Island, and our coastal program and wardens were featured in Audubon magazine.

Our Audubon Centers continue to connect Texans to our rich natural heritage – providing science education opportunities to children and engaging Texans of all ages in local, hands-on conservation efforts. Over the past year, Trinity River Audubon Center (Dallas) served 18,000 children and won an Award in Environmental Excellence from the Center for Nonprofit Management; Mitchell Lake Audubon Center (San Antonio) served over 4,000 children and won several awards, including receiving an honor from the South San Antonio Chamber of Commerce at their annual Legends Gala. Audubon Texas has taken a leadership role in drafting a strategic plan for the Texas Partnership for Children in Nature – a public-private collaboration with the goal of enabling Texas children and families to spend more time outdoors and better understand our natural resources.

I am looking forward to the opening of the Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center at Cedar Hill this summer and, in the coming years, the Sheldon Lake Audubon Center in Houston. These centers will provide us with expanded opportunities to connect Texans to the wonders of nature. We also worked hard to reopen the Sabal Palm Audubon Sanctuary in Brownsville, after being forced to close it for 18 months due to border fence issues. In partnership with Gorgas Science Foundation, this 527-acre ecologic gem is once again open to birdwatchers and other visitors from around the world.

We continue to work with local chapters to help us identify Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and address other local issues that need attention. In 2010, we worked with Houston Audubon to gather data necessary to nominate Columbia Bottomlands as a state level IBA, and distributed more than \$10,000 in mitigation funding to chapter conservation projects.

This year has been a year of conservation successes set against a backdrop of economic turmoil and one of the worst environmental disasters in history. Despite these hardships, Audubon continues to persevere and bring real progress to the Texas landscape. I thank you sincerely for your support, and ask you to join us in making the coming year a new high point for Texas birds and their landscapes.

Sincerely,

Bob Benson

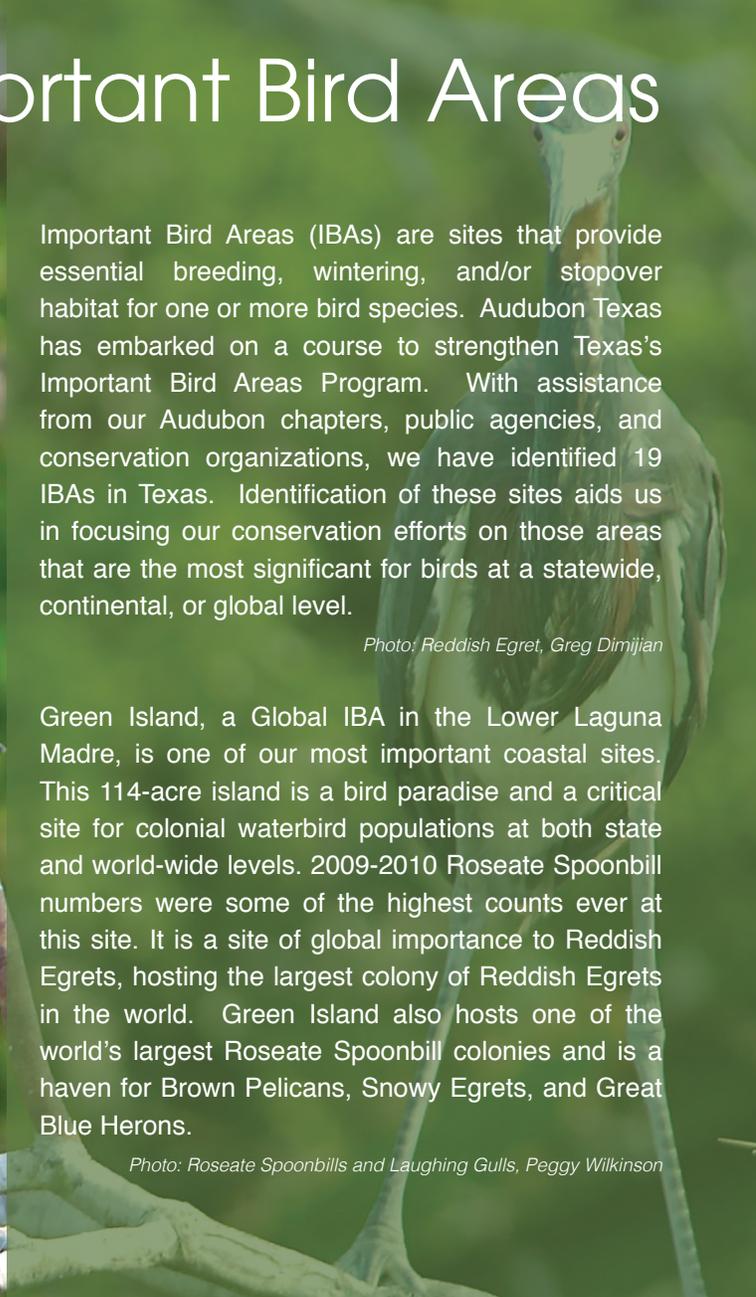
Important Bird Areas

Important Bird Areas (IBAs) are sites that provide essential breeding, wintering, and/or stopover habitat for one or more bird species. Audubon Texas has embarked on a course to strengthen Texas's Important Bird Areas Program. With assistance from our Audubon chapters, public agencies, and conservation organizations, we have identified 19 IBAs in Texas. Identification of these sites aids us in focusing our conservation efforts on those areas that are the most significant for birds at a statewide, continental, or global level.

Photo: Reddish Egret, Greg Dimijian

Green Island, a Global IBA in the Lower Laguna Madre, is one of our most important coastal sites. This 114-acre island is a bird paradise and a critical site for colonial waterbird populations at both state and world-wide levels. 2009-2010 Roseate Spoonbill numbers were some of the highest counts ever at this site. It is a site of global importance to Reddish Egrets, hosting the largest colony of Reddish Egrets in the world. Green Island also hosts one of the world's largest Roseate Spoonbill colonies and is a haven for Brown Pelicans, Snowy Egrets, and Great Blue Herons.

Photo: Roseate Spoonbills and Laughing Gulls, Peggy Wilkinson



Protecting Texas's Natural Heritage

Coastal Stewardship Program

In light of the recent disaster in the Gulf, our efforts to recover and protect coastal birds have never been more important. Many of the oiled Brown Pelicans that were cleaned up from the spill have been released in Texas, and Audubon Texas will continue to assist state and federal agencies in monitoring their progress. In addition, we:

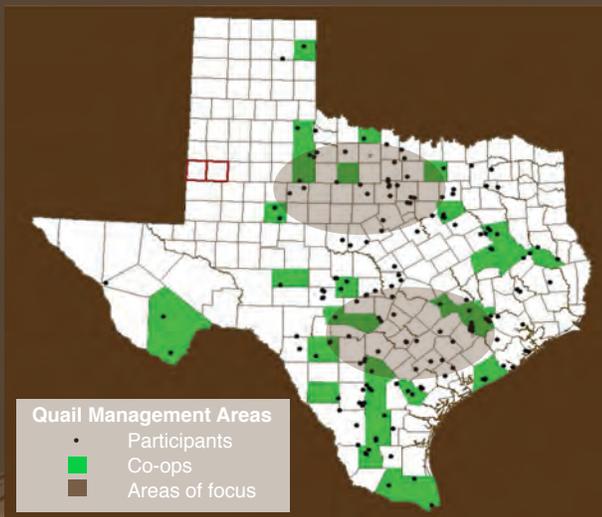
- Coordinated over 900 volunteer hours on Sundown Island, improving habitat on 45 acres of the island
- Worked with partners to address severe erosion on Pelican Island by installing a 1,300 ft breakwater
- Hosted a meeting with nine coastal partners and stakeholders to develop strategies on increasing knowledge and awareness of the impact that human disturbance has on colonial waterbirds
- Launched an Adopt-an-Island campaign that raised more than \$25,000 for coastal conservation

Photo: Brown Pelican, Bill Stripling

Quail and Grassland Birds Program

This program is a long-term, science-based project to help recover the rapidly declining populations of quail and other grassland birds on the Texas landscape. During the past year, Audubon Texas staff have presented at workshops for land managers and other habitat partners, assisted with prescribed burns, provided new management plans to landowners, and made 26 site visits to new cooperators. We also hired a new senior program manager, Kelly Reyna, Ph.D. A native Texan, Dr. Reyna has more than 7 years of research and on-the-ground habitat restoration experience, and is an expert on Texas bird populations, including game birds, grassland birds, swallows, coastal birds, and other bird species.

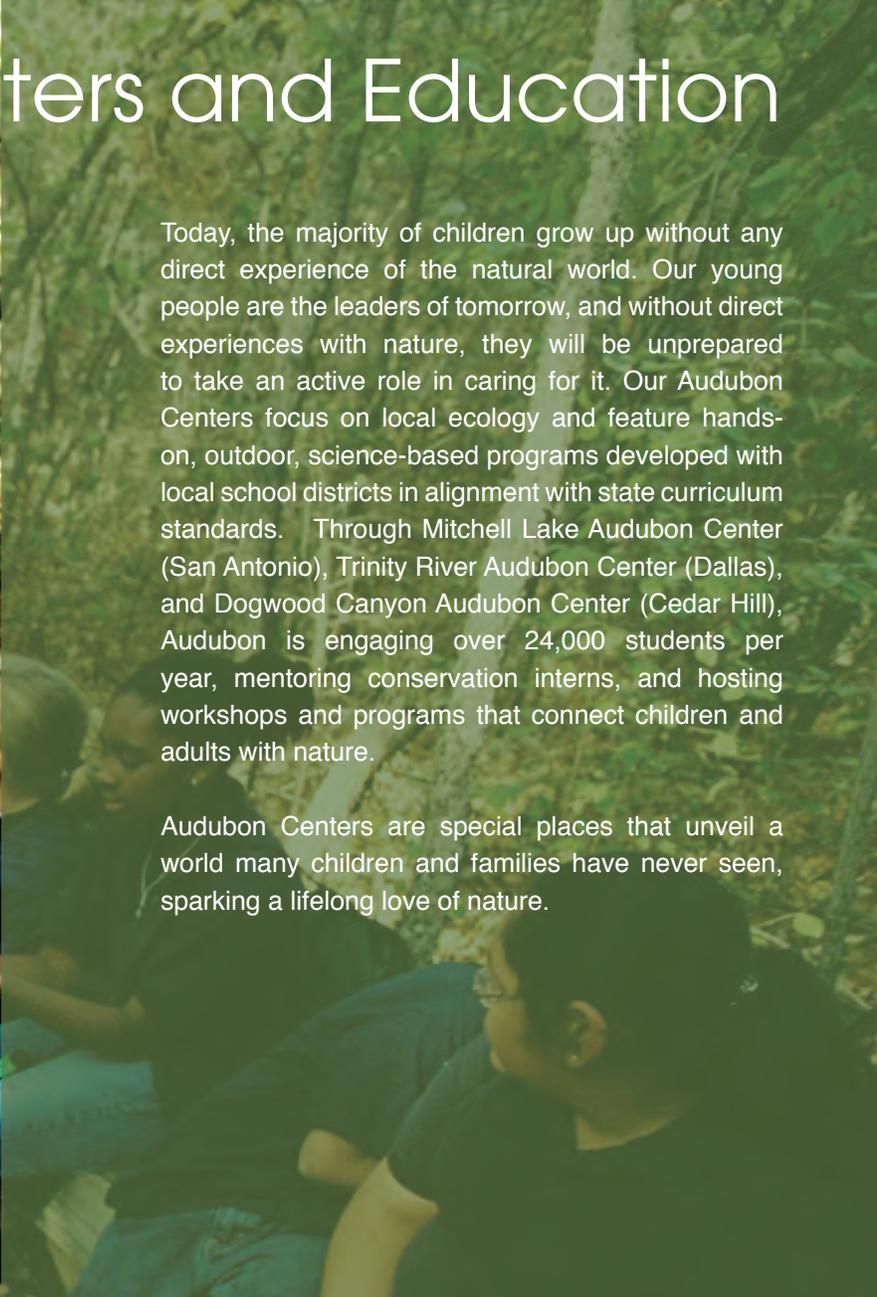
Photo: Northern Bobwhite Quail, Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources



Audubon Centers and Education

Today, the majority of children grow up without any direct experience of the natural world. Our young people are the leaders of tomorrow, and without direct experiences with nature, they will be unprepared to take an active role in caring for it. Our Audubon Centers focus on local ecology and feature hands-on, outdoor, science-based programs developed with local school districts in alignment with state curriculum standards. Through Mitchell Lake Audubon Center (San Antonio), Trinity River Audubon Center (Dallas), and Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center (Cedar Hill), Audubon is engaging over 24,000 students per year, mentoring conservation interns, and hosting workshops and programs that connect children and adults with nature.

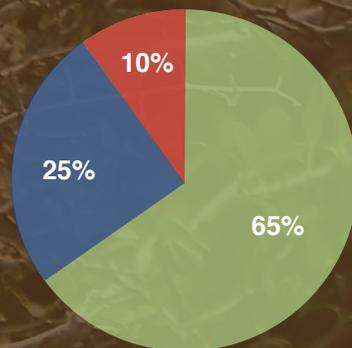
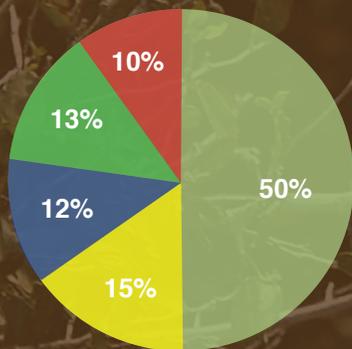
Audubon Centers are special places that unveil a world many children and families have never seen, sparking a lifelong love of nature.



Financial Summary

Audubon Texas is deeply grateful to all of the individuals, foundations, and corporations whose generous contributions have supported our work to conserve and restore natural ecosystems and bring environmental education programs to thousands of school children.

As indicated below, we are proud to report 90% of every dollar contributed to Audubon Texas goes directly to conservation and education programs in our state.



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To ensure that your planned gift or bequest is specifically designated for Texas programs, it is important to designate "Audubon Texas" as the beneficiary.

Photo: Reddish Egret, Greg Dimijian

Thank You For Your Annual Support

Gifts received 7/1/09 – 6/30/10

\$100,000+

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