



ANNUAL REPORT 2015

Photo: Faizel Ismail

Dear Friends,

Thank you from all of us at Audubon Texas! Big things lie ahead, and your support is enabling us to address our state's largest conservation challenges for birds and the habitat they rely on, now and in the future. We are on a journey to be the most effective conservation network in Texas. Through our incredible chapters, partners, members, donors, and volunteers, Audubon Texas is a powerful force for nature. You make that possible and we deeply appreciate you.

I hope you enjoy reading these shared accomplishments from 2015, and thank you for your support.

Yours truly,



Brian Trusty

Executive Director,
Audubon Texas
Central Flyway Vice President,
National Audubon Society



Audubon TEXAS



Photo by Jenna Hanson



Audubon TEXAS
WOMEN IN CONSERVATION

TERRY HERSHEY
TEXAS WOMEN IN
CONSERVATION AWARD

On Thursday, February 5, 2015 at River Oaks Country Club, we presented four outstanding conservationists with the inaugural Terry Hershey Texas Women in Conservation Award:



CAROL
DINKINS
*Environmental
Practice Group
Leader, Vinson
& Elkins LLP*



MARY ANNE
PIACENTINI
*Executive Director,
Katy Prairie
Conservancy*



SUSAN RIEFF
*Executive
Director,
Ladybird Johnson
Wildflower
Center*



ELLEN TEMPLE
*Conservationist,
Book Publisher,
& Education
Advocate*

Join us Thursday, March 3, 2016 at Fort Worth Club for the second annual Texas Women in Conservation Luncheon as we honor our second class of awardees:

JANICE BEZANSON *Executive Director, Texas Conservation Alliance*
DEBORAH CLARK *Conservationist & Partner, Birdwell & Clark Ranch*
ANN HAMILTON *Conservationist*
MARTY LEONARD *Board Member, Fort Worth Nature Center & Tarrant Regional Water District*

A photograph of a coastal bird colony. In the foreground, a fluffy white chick with a brown beak is nestled among green, leafy plants with small white flowers. In the background, an adult bird with black, white, and orange plumage is blurred. The text "COASTAL CONSERVATION" is overlaid in white at the bottom left.

COASTAL CONSERVATION

GUARDIANS OF THE COAST

The Coastal Conservation team celebrated a marriage this year. In 2015, we joined our passions for on-the-ground conservation and community outreach by forming the Texas Estuarine Resource Network (TERN). TERN engages individuals and businesses along the Texas coast in the conservation priorities affecting their communities, through bird monitoring, habitat restoration, and outreach.

In 2015, the award-winning TERN program brought over 1,000 volunteers to assist with issues important to Audubon and our partners along the upper coast. Our TERN volunteer citizen scientists usher in a new era – one where the people who know and love a place take its conservation into their own hands. This new order will bring large-scale conservation outcomes to a coast that protects and sustains the entire Lone Star State.

IN 2015



1,040 VOLUNTEERS



7,737 VOLUNTEER HOURS

Black Skimmer family by Scott Buckel



THANK YOU

Leroy Overstreet has seen the last 20 generations of colonial waterbirds reared on the Texas Coast, and in many cases, personally ensured their survival. This year, at the age of 90, Leroy retired from the wardenship he's held with our Coastal Conservation program since 1997. Mr. Overstreet, thank you for your service to Audubon and to the conservation of the Texas Coast.

RANCHING + CONSERVATION

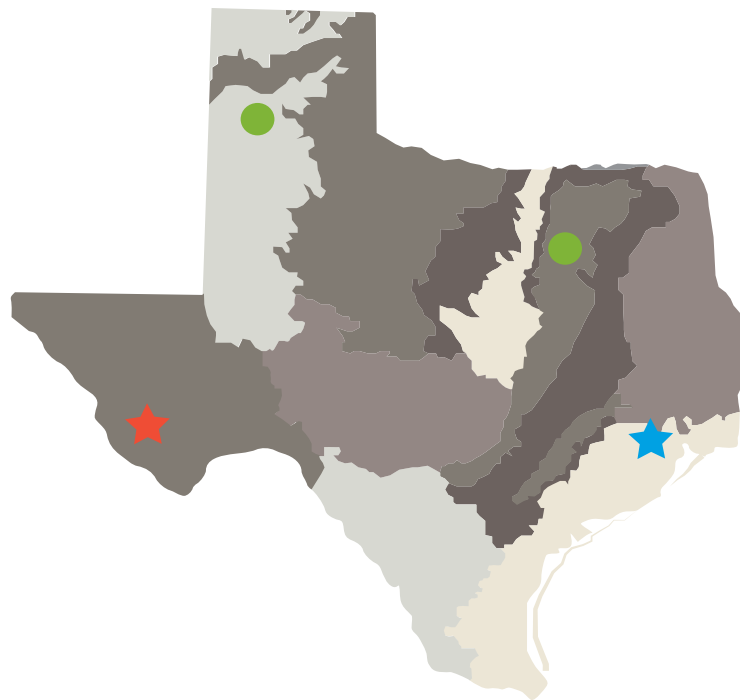
Few ecosystems in the Americas are more in peril than native prairies and grasslands. Less than half of all native grasslands remain today; less than 1% of the original Blackland Prairie is still in existence.

In Texas, 95% of all land is privately owned, making restoration of lost habitat difficult. One way to reverse this trend is to provide incentives to private landowners and ranchers to practice conservation on their land. Another is to support markets that allow these landowners to benefit from sustainable livestock management.

Our conservation ranching program attacks the issue from both sides. First, we help ranchers transform their land and livelihood into native habitat that feeds livestock as well as native birds and wildlife; and second, we find, grow, and support markets for more profitable, healthier, ecologically sustainable, grass-fed beef.



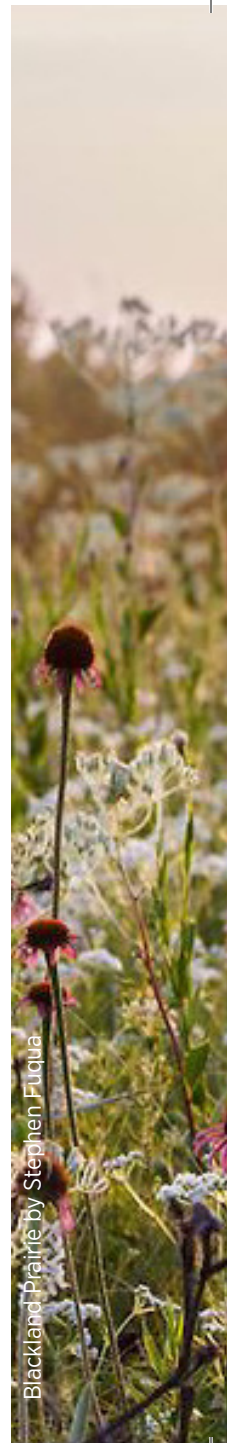
Northern Bobwhites by Randall Ennis



2015 BIRD-FRIENDLY, GRASS-FED BEEF RANCHING PILOT PROGRAMS IN TEXAS.

- ★ **Dixon Water Foundation's Mimms Unit, Marfa, TX**
Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands
- ★ **Katy Prairie Conservancy, Katy, TX**
Coastal Prairie & Marshes
- In 2016 we will expand the pilot program to additional prairie ecosystems:
North Texas – *Blackland Prairie, Cross Timbers & Prairies*
The Panhandle – *Rolling Plains, High Plains*

Blackland Prairie by Stephen Fuqua



PRAIRIE & GRASSLAND CONSERVATION



URBAN CONSERVATION



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF TEXAS

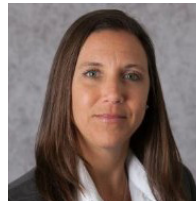
The population of Texas is expected to double in the next 35 years. **Our vision for Texas in the year 2050 includes vibrant, sustainable urban landscapes, ones that mesh with and contribute to native landscapes, rather than consuming them.** We're playing the long game with urban conservation by building programs that will support cities and their unmatched opportunities for conservation.

This year we launched a partnership with NextEra Energy to broker deals between the largest provider of green energy in Texas and businesses with parking lot and warehouse roof space. NextEra turns otherwise underutilized space into solar power (not to mention covered parking for hot Texas summers), and in turn supports the growth of our Urban Conservation program. Solar hosts enjoy a discount on their energy bill, and all Texans benefit from a little less reliance on fossil fuels.



CONVERTING JUST 7% OF CURRENT U.S. URBAN AREAS TO SOLAR PANELS WOULD CREATE ENOUGH ENERGY TO MEET THE ENTIRE COUNTRY'S ELECTRICITY NEEDS

"I am proud to work for a company that understands and promotes the benefits of clean power, and, as a Houston resident, I am grateful for initiatives like Audubon's Urban Conservation program, which is working diligently to increase the sustainability of our cities."



- Blayne Gunderman
Environmental Services Manager, NextEra Energy Resources
Member, Audubon Texas State Board



Solar parking covers in California by Great Valley Center



IN 2015



5,100 VOLUNTEER HOURS



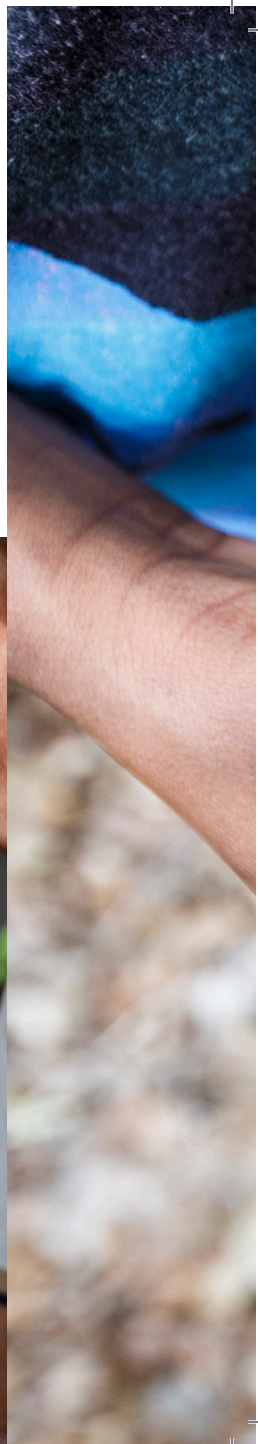
11,000 VISITORS



7,000 STUDENTS

At Dogwood Canyon Audubon Center, we are customizing our education programs to meet the needs of local students. As a result, a study recently showed fifth grade students who went through our outdoor science education program averaged a 12% improvement on state standardized tests (STAAR). We will continue to study the impact of our programming on fifth graders over the next three years. This is the first study of its kind in Texas, linking outdoor science programming to state test improvement.


DOGWOOD CANYON **Audubon**
CENTER AT CEDAR HILL









IN 2015



4,500 VOLUNTEER HOURS



5,300 VISITORS



3,100 STUDENTS



At Mitchell Lake Audubon Center, our long-term goal is to be a conservation leader in San Antonio – a shining example of successful habitat restoration and water conservation. This year, we will complete a 10-year Conservation Plan to help reach this goal. The plan will include the removal of invasive species and replanting of native species, expanding our native gardens for pollinators, solidifying action plans for priority bird species, and educating San Antonians about our efforts and how they can practice conservation at home.




MITCHELL LAKE Audubon
CENTER



Photo by Melissa Malone

IN 2015



9,000 VOLUNTEER HOURS



49,000 VISITORS



25,000 STUDENTS

TRINITY RIVER  **Audubon**
CENTER

This year our Conservation Treks program ventured from Trinity River Audubon Center to the Texas Coast. Building on the success of our Big Bend National Park trips, we took students to back country experiences in Goose Island State Park, on Sundown Island, and more. Participants learn everything they need to know to survive as a group in the wild for a week, and perhaps more importantly, they learn about the conservation issues that face their generation in the wild places that are most affected.

We develop educational programming tailored to students' needs, including a variety of science, leadership, service, and team building curricula. Not only do we see a better understanding of science concepts, but students come back as more curious, creative, and collaborative individuals. With each trip we see lasting friendships and lifelong relationships with nature begin; experiences these high school students will carry with them through choices in personal conservation, college majors, and careers.



Photo by Faizel Ismail

Photo by Jarratt Willis





AUDUBON TEXAS STATE BOARD

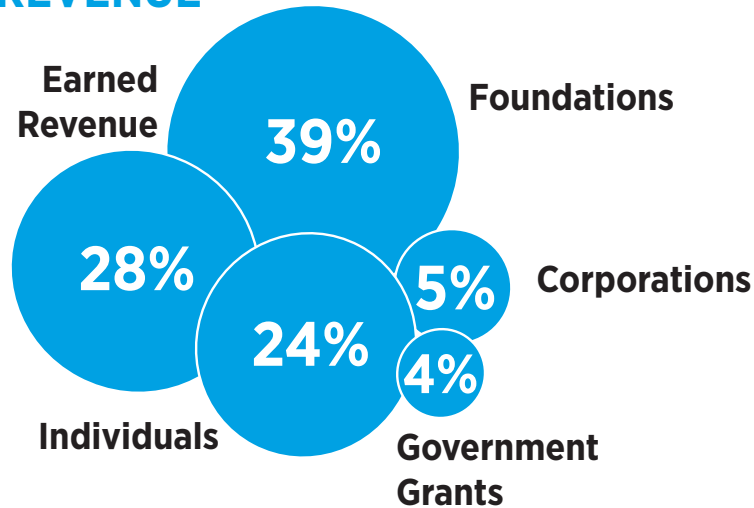
Mayor Rob Franke, Cedar Hill, *Chair*
Pete Moore, Harlingen, *Vice Chair*
Paula Peters, Dallas, *Secretary*
Donna Bailey, Houston
Dr. Juliet Garcia, Brownsville
Ignacio "Nacho" Garza, Brownsville
Stephen Gast, Houston
David Greenman, Dallas
Blayne Gunderman, Houston
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David Litman, Dallas
Jay Lorch, Dallas
Dr. Larry McKinney, Corpus Christi
Anne Parrish, San Antonio
Dr. Larry Sall, Dallas
Lonnie Samford, Austin
Mary Suhm, Dallas
George Bristol, Fort Worth, *Member Emeritus*
Andrew Sansom, San Marcos, *Member Emeritus*

"Younger generations rarely have the opportunities that my generation had with regard to getting out into nature. Some of my most moving memories of my work at Dogwood Canyon and Trinity River Audubon Centers are simply the wonder and delight on a small child's face when they show me what they have found in nature. I'm so excited that, through Texas Audubon Centers, today's urban children have a chance to experience the wild and thrill in it." - *Jennifer Junker*

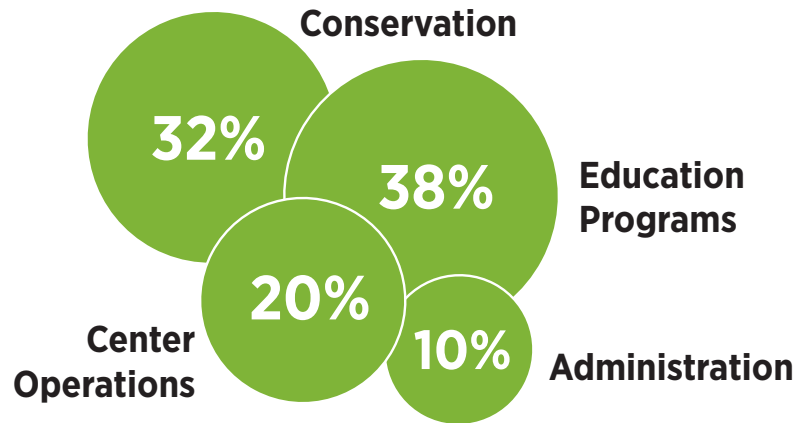
DONOR SPOTLIGHT

2015 FINANCES

REVENUE

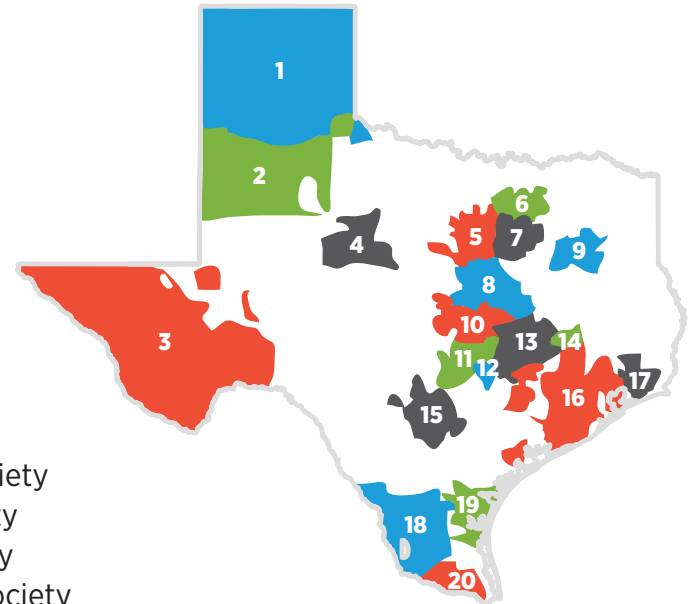


EXPENSES



TEXAS AUDUBON CHAPTERS

- 1 Texas Panhandle Audubon Society
- 2 Llano Estacado Audubon Society
- 3 El Paso Trans Pecos Audubon Society
- 4 Big Country Audubon Society
- 5 Fort Worth Audubon Society
- 6 Prairie & Timbers Audubon Society
- 7 Audubon Dallas
- 8 Central Texas Audubon Society
- 9 Tyler Audubon Society
- 10 Twin Lakes Audubon Society
- 11 Travis Audubon Society
- 12 Bastrop County Audubon Society
- 13 Rio Brazos Audubon Society
- 14 Huntsville Audubon Society
- 15 Bexar Audubon Society
- 16 Houston Audubon Society
- 17 Golden Triangle Audubon Society
- 18 Monte Mucho Audubon Society
- 19 Coastal Bend Audubon Society
- 20 Rio Grande Delta Audubon Society



A TEXAS-SIZED THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

In virtually every area of conservation in which we work, we rely on partners.

CONSERVATION PARTNERS

American Bird Conservancy
Audubon Dallas
Centerpoint Energy
Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program
College of the Mainland
Dixon Water Foundation
Ducks Unlimited
Environmental Institute of Houston
Farmers Branch Historical Park
Fort Worth Audubon Society
Friends of Anahuac NWR
Friends of GISP
Galveston Bay Estuary Program
Galveston Bay Foundation
Galveston County Extension Office
Galveston Island Convention & Visitors Bureau
Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council
Gorgas Science Foundation
Grand Prairie Parks and Recreation - Lake Parks
Gulf Coast Bird Observatory
Harte Research Institute
Houston Audubon
International Crane Foundation
Katy Prairie Conservancy
Lewisville Aquatic Ecosystem Research Facility
NextEra Energy
North-Central Texas Master Birder Program

NRCS
NRG Energy
NWRs
Prairie and Timbers Audubon Society
San Antonio Bay Foundation
San Antonio Bay Partnership
Southern Methodist University
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
Texas A&M University Galveston
Texas Commission of Environmental Quality
Texas General Land Office
Texas Master Naturalists
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
The Nature Conservancy
The Wildlife Center of Texas
Travis Audubon
Turtle Island Restoration Network
University of North Texas
US Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS
Valley Ranch Association

CENTER PARTNERS

50+ partner school districts
Accenture
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Audubon Dallas
Barack Obama Male Leadership Academy
Bexar Audubon Society
Big Thought
Bihl Haus Arts
Boy Scouts of America
City of Cedar Hill
Cedar Hill State Park
Centerpoint Energy

City of Dallas
Crystal Charity Ball
Dallas Arboretum
Dallas Zoo
Deloitte Tax LLP
Ducks Unlimited
Ernst & Young
Garden Volunteers of South Texas
Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas
Girls, Inc.
Government Canyon State Natural Area
GroundWork Dallas
John Bunker Sands Wetland Center
Joven Youth Organization San Antonio
Kids on the Land
Klyde Warren Park
Land Heritage Institute
Last Chance Forever
Lockheed Martin
Medina River Natural Area
Milberger's Landscaping & Nursery
NBC 5
North Texas Master Birders
Pegasus School of Liberal Arts
Perfect Score
Perot Museum of Nature and Science
REI
Rogers Wildlife Rehabilitation Center
San Antonio Audubon Society
San Antonio River Authority
San Antonio Water System
San Antonio Youth
San Antonio Zoo
SeaWorld San Antonio
Texas A&M University San Antonio

Texas Association for Environmental Education
Texas Children in Nature
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Texas Conservation Alliance
Texas General Land Office
Texas Master Gardeners
Texas Master Naturalists
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Public Radio
Texas Wildlife Association
The George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum
The Wildlife Center of Texas
Trinity Forest Golf Club
Trinity Recreation Conservancy
Trinity University
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
United Way of San Antonio
University of Texas at Dallas
University of Texas at San Antonio
USFWS
Waste Management
Wild Birds Unlimited
Wildlife Rescue & Rehabilitation



Photo by Jenna Hanson

**At Audubon Texas, bird conservation is
at the core of what we do.**

But why birds?

Birds are in nearly every ecosystem on the planet. They are pollinators, seed dispersers, predators, and prey. Within the network of connections that make up an ecosystem, birds are uniquely positioned to act as a sort of environmental mirror for the health of the land.

This makes what's good for birds good for entire ecosystems, which includes us humans. If you have to pick a place to focus your time, energy, and resources in the face of ever-growing conservation challenges, starting with birds makes a lot of sense.

We focus on birds because it's bigger than birds. It's smart conservation for the state we love.



Audubon TEXAS

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