

December 2025



# Naturalist Notes

## Upcoming

**Christmas Bird Counts** between now and early January. Check [houstonadubon.org](http://houstonadubon.org) for dates, times and locations to get involved.

**First Day Hike** Thursday Jan 1<sup>st</sup> from 8 am to 12 noon at Brazos Bend SP. Reserve your vehicle day pass ahead of time.

**January Chapter Meeting** Thursday Jan 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm – 8 pm at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Bird Survey** Saturday Jan 10<sup>th</sup> 8 am – 10 am at the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center.

## Thank You

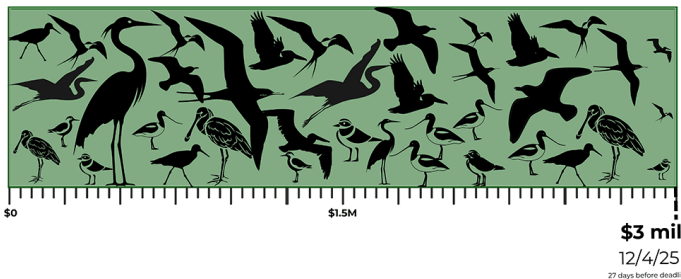
A big thank you to our outgoing board members!

Volunteer Services Co-Director - Nicola Killen

Volunteer Services Co-Director - Sanjana Srinivasan

Webmaster - Shannon Morrison

## Bolivar Flats Campaign Finished!



Houston Audubon raised the funds to preserve Bolivar Flats on Bolivar Peninsula. Although only 25 acres, this acquisition completes the 1,282 acres preserve. Over 1,000 donors participated.

## 2026 Chapter Leadership

Boardmembers

President - Sheryl Mills

Vice President - Ilya Martinalbo

Treasurer - Rebecca Lloyd

Secretary - Marianne Smith

Immediate Past President - Irmi Willcockson

Membership Director - Denis Martin

Training Director - Rebecca Lloyd

Advanced Training Director - Mary Spolyar

Volunteer Services Co-Director - Kerry Keck

Volunteer Services Co-Director - Michelle Victoria

Class Representative - Lisa Morano

Outreach Director - Mango Saucedo

Communications Director - Katie Sierra

State Representative - Carol Oeller

Webmaster - Livia Garza

In addition, Melissa Rodgers has joined the VMS team to help with hours management.

“Leadership is about weaving  
people’s strengths into a  
masterpiece.” Weaving Outside the  
Lines, Demien Cacciolo





Brooke Bowman and Emily participating in the Sheldon Lake SP Plant-A-Thon. Photo by Sarah Schultz.



“You can’t go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and change the ending”

- CS Lewis





### **Armand Bayou Prairie Pandemonium**

This year's event took place on November 22, and 2,250 native grasses and forbs were successfully returned to the prairie. Planting was completed by approximately 80 volunteers guided by experienced Texas Master Naturalist members and Nature Center Staff. The event was concluded with lunch and raffle. Attached see photo of Gulf Coast Master Naturalist Rich Sommer who participated as an event mentor to the volunteers.

- John Egan