



April 18, 2014

## **BIRDING NEWS**

### **Sandhill Cranes Converge**



Wayne Poorman sent in these links pertaining to the great gathering of Sandhill Cranes in Nebraska.

<http://cranewatchfestival.com/>

<http://nebraskacranefestival.org/>

Here is a news story from 3-20-14 about these sandhill cranes.

<http://www.nbcnews.com/nightly-news/annual-crane-migration-begins-roar-n58171>

### **Seabourne Creek Nature Park Bird Hike**

(April 2) A nice variety of shore birds found its way to our newly restored wetlands. We were able to view a group of them together, with Mark (Scheurman) teaching us the relative difference in size between Black-necked Stilts, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Stilt Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers and Least Sandpipers, as well as their markings. He is also teaching us to bird more by ear, i.e., learning the songs and calls of some of the birds present, but not necessarily seen, such as Brown Thrasher, Northern Parula and White-eyed Vireo ( which we did see). We are privileged to have him volunteer his time.



Later in the week, Bob (Schwartz) and Carol(Pawelek) spotted a Sora last Friday at the wetlands. Bob was also able to get a picture of it. This is a new bird for the Park list. It has not been reported very often in our part of Fort Bend County.

More information about this bird can be found at:

<http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/sora/id>

Wayne also sent the following report yesterday, Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>:



We added a Semipalmated Sandpiper and a Wilson's Phalarope to the list today (**to make 169 species!!**)

Also got some additional views of the Mottled Ducks and Dowitchers from earlier this week...

The wetlands are really coming alive!

See Wayne's photos by selecting the link below (underneath Today's catch at the SCP wetlands)

## Today's catch at the SCP wetlands

[VIEW SLIDE SHOW](#) [DOWNLOAD ALL](#)

This album has 13 photos and will be available on SkyDrive until 7/16/2014.

## \*\*\*\*Bird Hike Etiquette\*\*\*\*

— See the rules of the hike in the Coastal Prairie Planner (Bulletin) and on the website. These will help everyone have a great bird hike!

## High Island

Diane Russell captured the rookery at High Island on April 7<sup>th</sup> in this video linked here. Quite a gathering!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aM5HtrdbJrs&feature=youtu.be>

## **MONARCH BUTTERFLY GARDEN**

Diane Russell, Barbara Willey and Lynn Trenta assisted the University of St. Thomas prepare a Monarch Butterfly Garden. Diane developed the contact and assisted in preparing the bed, selecting and purchasing plants and Barbara brought many plants from her home garden. Lynn provided labor and took the photo!



## LADYBUG LADYBUG!

The Lost Ladybug Project

"The Lost Ladybug Project is seeking citizen scientists and naturalists to take photos of ladybugs to help understand the recent decline of native species. Please help us build a North American map of ladybug species. You can upload into our database using this easy form: <http://www.lostladybug.org/form/page-1-form-558.php> Thanks!"



Very much appreciate your help. We have free materials online and will send bookmarks, handouts, posters to anyone interested, particularly 4H and Master Naturalist and Gardener leaders.

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## ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL VIDEO

Georgia Messemmer sent in this great video. You can watch this one again and again and find something new to appreciate at each viewing .

**Be sure to watch this on the largest computer screen you have (HD if possible) and have your sound turned on. The hummingbird doing rolls chasing a bee is not to be missed.**

**Be sure and watch closely (around 2 min 40 sec) and check out the baby bat under its mother. Unreal. If you never knew what goes on in the garden when you aren't paying attention, watch this - some of the finest photography you will ever see.**

<http://www.youtube-nocookie.com/embed/xHkq1edcbk4?rel=0>

## SEABOURNE CREEK NATURE PARK GARDENS

### Prairie Demo Garden

Thanks to the volunteers who came out to the SCNP Demo Garden Saturday 4/12. The volunteers who were there were: Donna Pisani, Karen Showalter, Jimmie Brannon, Than Colvin, Mark Morgenstern, Drea Morgenstern, Linda Rude, and Lynn and Jerry Trenta. It was a beautiful day and we bumped up 88 plants, weeded, cleared the pathways, and planted new plants. Jerry put in new and refinished plant ID signs.

*Mark Morgenstern, Prairie Demo Garden Coordinator*

Prairie Demo Garden Photos April 12<sup>th</sup>



Donna Pisani, Jimmie Brannon, and Karl Baumgartner at bump-up table



Donna Pisani and snake



Volunteers working hard—It is shaping up!

**Butterfly Garden**



We had a great day and the garden looks much better. Attendees: Jim Butcher, Doug Simons, Kathy Moore, Gloria Scheel, Linda Rude, my wife(non-member) and myself. Thanks to all for your hard work.

Thank you, Gloria, for getting these plants for us.

Thanks again  
*Lea Hyman*, Butterfly Garden Coordinator.

## TURKEY EGGS



Karl Baumgartner found these Turkey Eggs on his Lavaca property.

## PRAIRIE GUIDE TRAINING



The Coastal Prairie Partnership and Houston Chapter of the Native Prairies Assoc. of TX are seeking volunteers willing to undergo training to become storytellers and ambassadors between a diverse, urban population and our misunderstood local prairies. Any interested person is welcome. In essence we are offering training for people interested in becoming Meadowlarks (prairie guides or prairie docents).

As Jaime once told me, most people coming to see a prairie does not want to know the name of every plant, every insect, every bird... It is better prepare a story about a few plants or a few butterflies... that the visitor can remember and emotionally connect with.

Training will involve a classroom session (evening) and in the field practice (Saturday or evening). Trainees will be given background information and allow to follow (as many times as they wish) guides giving actual tours. As different groups ask for tours, an email will be sent to the pool of Meadowlarks and trainees and whoever wants to give the tour can volunteer.

Meadowlarks (prairie docents) are needed at

- Buffalo Bayou Park (near Sabine Bridge downtown)
- MD Anderson Prairie (Fannin & Holcombe)
- Hermann Park: Whistlestop Prairie (next to entrance of Japanese Garden) and/or Bayou Savannah (next to 6520 Almeda)
- Deer Park Prairie (Deer Park)
- Willow Waterhole Compartment 3 (S. Post Oak & Gasmer)

Others could be added.

Participants sign up for a particular evening training may do the associated field training or different field training. For more information or to register <http://prairiepartner.org/page/prairie-power-series> . Flyer attached.

## **OUTDOORS PEOPLE**



### *Check it out!*

Lan Shen sent this new website that lets people who like to get outdoors what is going on and around Houston → <http://www.GetOutHereHouston.org>

If an organization would like to become a sponsor (partner) of the website you can email Laurie Roddy at [laurie@getoutherehouston.org](mailto:laurie@getoutherehouston.org) . Some of the partners are KPC, Citizen's Environmental Coalition ,Houston Wilderness, Coastal Prairie Partnership and many more.



# **HAPPY EASTER/PASSOVER HOLIDAY!**