

I'm Gary Clark. I started with Houston Audubon as a board member in the early 1980s. I don't remember which exactly which year. I think it was 1983.¹ I have always been interested in birds and the first part of my life, you know, there's a line in the Ecclesiastes, I believe it is, that "whatever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might". Well, that's me.

So I was interested in birds at a young age and I just went full-bore, read every book. That's kind of how I am. But I'm interested in something. I start doing research. I mean, I'm a professor, I'm a scholar. I started really getting into the identification of birds and their sounds or songs, their voices, and really got involved in that, and I went to an Audubon meeting, I think in the early 1970s.

They met in a small room in the basement of the Museum of Natural Sciences and it was a small group of people, but golly, I was so impressed with their dedication, with their enthusiasm about conservation efforts, which was something I didn't think that many birdwatchers were paying attention to at that time. I had read an article, scholarly article, I believe it was, from a scientist at Cornell about the decline in birds.

He had written - I'm sorry, I don't remember which particular article it was, but he had written this article and he said that we would lose somewhere between 30 percent and 60 percent of our birds by the end of the century, meaning the end of the 20th century. Well, man, that got my attention.

That really alarmed me and I certainly through my lifetime that noticed they declined in bird life, but I had no idea somebody had documented it to be that severe, so I began to be really interested in conservation of birds and I went to the Audubon meeting and I, I was just - I thought they were delightful people, they really cared and they were really pursuing avenues to protect habitat, avenues to protect birds, and I thought that was great. The person who spoke at that meeting, by the way, was John Tveten. I didn't know him at that moment. He gave a great program.

I later got to know him. He became a very close friend and a mentor, by the way, for both me and my wife, Kathy Adams Clark.

So anyway, I, I live up in the north country, in the Woodlands area and I didn't think that at the time I didn't think that I would get involved with Houston Audubon because they were down here in Houston at that point. In the history of the world where I live was way far from Houston. Yeah, of course it's all blended into one thing. I know I'm going out and on about this. I'm sorry, but I just want to give you a little background.

So, at the time I didn't really think that there was much need for me to get directly involved in Audubon, although I certainly joined it and paid my dues, even went on some of their field trips. And also I participated in what they were calling the Birdathon. What they had in those days and it still happens, I know, and my friend Mike Austin, Dr. Mike Austin, still my very dear. And I decided we didn't participate in the Birdathon and, you know, we were both hotshot birders,

¹ Gary first came on the HAS BOD as Director-at-Large in 1987. Shown as Executive VP in 1988; then President 1989 to 1990; Past-President in 1991 to 1992.

identify birds by the sight and by sound like that, although the older I get that, you know, my hearing is not as good.

But anyway, we did one of those Birdathons and we won. And that's really how I got to know Fred Collins, at the ceremony where we won the trophy at that time and I was just, you know, okay, great. I can identify a bunch of birds and I can go out and I can see more birds than maybe somebody else. Big deal. But how am I going to help protect them? That was my concern.

So anyway, I went back and I started, or helped start, I talked to some people and I got this organization started, called the Piney Woods Wildlife Society to serve the group of people that were up where I live and to get them involved in birding. The way you get people concerned and interested in conservation is first you introduce them to nature, to whatever it is they're interested in, and most people are interested in birds. At least now from birds, they might get into other things, which is great.

John introduced me to butterflies and always thought butterflies were bird food, but John turned my head around about that. Anyway, I'm rambling on. I apologize. At any rate, I helped start the Piney Woods Wildlife Society and was its first President and the way people got the message out about rare birds in Texas was through a phone tree, and I believe the Ornithology Group of Texas started that. I'm in an Ornithology group of Houston, they had started that.

So, they had a phone tree and I was on the phone tree and, you know, being a, I don't know, young, I don't know, aggressive kind of guy, visionary kind of guy, looking at the future and going man. You know, we can do a better job than this. We can have a recorded message that anybody can call into a recorded message. They don't have to have a phone tree. I'll call Jim Winn and you'll call somebody else about that time, the bird's gone. So why not pick up your phone and call into a recording? Have to understand recordings in those days, this big box, huge box, but I kept that in my office at the college with the permission of the then College Dean and President kept that in my office in the college and I updated it all the time. So, when a rare bird showed up then it was called into that tape machine and then I would record a message in that tape machine about a rare bird, where it was and why it was important, and that got the attention of Ted Eubanks and he was a big help in participating in calling in rare birds.

And then, you know, Piney Woods Wildlife Society was going great guns. We started the turtle project, the Ridley Turtle project and the Rescue Ridley Turtle.

We were involved in that and we were involved in a number of other things and Ted called and he said I'd really like you to be a member of the Houston Audubon board and I thought, wow, that's great. Sure, I'm pretty enthusiast about what you all are doing. And he said, well, we're enthusiastic about what Piney Woods Wildlife Society is doing. So, we kind of had a little bit of a marriage between the Piney Wood Wildlife Society at that time and Houston Audubon and it worked out pretty well.

And then I was on the board during the 1980s when we were pursuing some extraordinarily important work, namely the purchase of property at High Island, and that was an aggressive move on the Board's part, conserving habitat is a way you can serve birds, is to come on and serve their habitat, and I was thrilled because we at Piney Woods had also been involved in

conserving habitat up in our part of the country. As well, is, by the way, the Piney Woods Wildlife Society conserved habitat in Costa Rica.

So that was right at up my alley. I mean, this is what I was looking for, people who were interested in protecting birds by protecting the places where they lived and needed to live, or the way stations that migratory birds needed, meaning High Island. We were really, really engaged in that. During my membership on the board, that was our focus and I was very proud and happy to be part of that endeavor, plus a number of other things. Of course, we were advocates for some other things. We were battling a number of agencies, one of which was the Army Corps of Engineers. So anyhow, let me just kind of go through that.

We worked really hard. We did acquire property and we also began to work on the Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary, and that was spearheaded by Stennie Meadours who agreed to stay on the Board when I became President. By the way, I did not lobby to be President. I wasn't trying to be President. Ted was doing a great job. Fred Collins before him did a great job, so I thought there were a number of people on the Board who could be President. But certain members of the Board wanted me to be President and I said, well, okay, and you know, the Board at that time, they had a membership meeting in May in which they elected board members, and on May, after the semester ended in May, then I had a little vacation, so I took off and I went down to South Texas, Rio Grande Valley. Well, if I'm gone, they won't elect me because I won't be at the annual meeting. You know, those days there weren't cell phones, didn't call anybody and I stayed at Falcon Dam, stayed part, which was a really remote anyway, camped out there. The days when you could do that, then I came back home and learned that I was President-Elect and I again, you know, I always thought other that thought. I mean it's just - it's not - I don't know how to put this, it's just in me, and I don't know why it's in me, but whatever is in my lap, it becomes my passion. Whatever my hand finds to do, I do it and I do it. I work hard at it and I've done that way. I've been that way all life. I'm not saying that it's bragging, please don't misunderstand. I'm just saying that. So, there's something in my brain that makes me and I have no idea why that is, but it's why, I don't know.

So I certainly threw myself all heartedly into it and then when it became my turn to be President, and I threw my whole heart into that when I - both as a board member and president-elect, and then later President, it, it was clear to me that what kept Audubon going were its volunteers, without the volunteers there would not be an Audubon and I did everything I could to encourage them both when I was a board member and then later as President, and to assure them that they had my backing.

And there were times when they needed help and sometimes when they needed funding and it was my job to give them all the help they needed. Because without those volunteers, those dedicated volunteers at the Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary, and we certainly needed volunteers at High Island when we were acquiring property and without people volunteering their time, they weren't getting recognition for that. They were doing it out of just love of birds; and by the way, Board members are volunteers too. We were all volunteers too, So don't - I understood that everybody on my board was a volunteer, um, and, you know, Audubon - the gears of Audubon are volunteers. It's not the person who's the president, it's the people who have volunteered their time, including board members. And it's a commitment.

And I was so impressed from the, my first - remember the first meeting I had with Audubon and

I mean that I went to, the first meeting I went to at Audubon and down in the basement of Museum and Natural Science there were maybe 12 people. There were all volunteers and they were dedicated, and man, I love that. I'm into that kind of thing. And ever since then I have admired and respected and supported the volunteers. When I became President, I certainly did.

So, here was the thing. I became President. We had committed ourselves and signed and I had signed my life away. I had signed the papers to buy properties at High Island. We had made a big commitment and when I got to be President, I was looking at the books. Now, my job is the Professor of Business and I took a look at the books and I said my God, we're broke, we're absolutely broke, we have no money. We got all these bills. And the other thing I discovered was that we were, we were in arrears of taxes, school taxes and then, I mean big time arrears. Wow, we had to do something about this, so I had to choose my board members or ask people to serve on my board, and certainly some of the board members that were on the previous board, I wanted them to stay on. Some of them did, some of them didn't, but I certainly wanted Stennie Meadours and she agreed, thank goodness. Bless her heart, she's so great. But I needed somebody to help me with finance and I knew somebody that was really good at that, I mean fabulous at that. And he was the Chief Financial Officer of my college and I had watched him operate and I knew him and, you know, colleges have financial issues too and he was just genius at that sort of stuff. And I went to him, his name was Jeff Marsee and I went to Jeff and said I want you to be on the Houston Audubon Board.

He looked at me and said Gary, I don't know anything about birds and I said you don't have to know anything about birds. All you have to do is care. And he said, well I really do care. When I was in California, I was a member of the Sierra Club, so I really do care about the environment. But I don't know anything about birds. And you Audubon people are bird people. And I said Jeff, yes, but we're conservationist. We, like Sierra Club just ask Sierra Club we care about conservation and, you know, we're not just a bunch of people go out with binoculars and watch birds.

We're trying to conserve habitat, but we need, I need you to help me with the finances because the finances of Houston Audubon are not in good shape and he thought about it and he said, well yeah, sure. Thank goodness. I said Jeff came in and I remember the first meeting after he looked at the book, he came to the board meeting and he said y'all are broke and I said Jeff, remember you're a board member. He said correction, we're broke. Now when you're a board member at Audubon you have a fiduciary responsibility. It wasn't Audubon that was broke. That means we, board members, were financially liable for the debts, especially the taxes. So, my job was to get that straightened out. And I worked with Jeff to help us get the taxes worked out. I think we had some of the taxes forgiven, but we still needed to pay a lot of money and how do you get the money? Well, it was clear to me that some of the donors at Audubon had kind of fallen by the wayside the big donors of Audubon. And I don't know why and that's, that's a long story so I don't want to get into that.

But I started calling these large donors and having lunches with them at Edith L Moore Sanctuary. And then one of the donors - and I'm not going to mention names, and one of the donors wanted to meet with me at an exclusive country club and that was fine and I talked to these donors and I said we need help, we know what we're doing. You've supported us once. Please support us again. I wanted to make a personal connection with them. We're not mean people, you know, we're not out to kill people, not to fight. We're out to save the birds.

And thank goodness they agreed and they started donating money. And then the second prong of getting money of course was to get membership. Get membership dues and then members donating money. So, we built up membership. We began to build up membership. We began to restore our relationship with donors and kept donors to help us out, and they did, and eventually, within about a year, we were reasonably financially stable. By the time my term was up in Audubon we were in pretty good financial shape.

So, the first major problem I had was a problem with finance, a problem getting money. So, the two prongs, first going to our, our donors and talking to them and getting donations and then building up membership, which we did. Then going to the oil companies, talking to oil companies. Now I, I started my life, my career not in, in the education, not in being a professor. But I, as a young man getting out of college, I didn't know what I wanted to do. I had no idea what I'm going to do in my life and by the way, everything I've ever done in my life, I just stumbled into it.

It's found me. I haven't found it. But I needed a job and I was searching around and had a search firm and they said, well how about advertising? I didn't know anything in the world about advertising, the world of advertising, but anyhow, somehow or another I landed a job with a major advertising agency, McKenna Erickson, and they do the advertising for Exxon.

At the time, Exxon and then also some other large companies like Coca-Cola. And I wound up working for that company doing market research and then later actually writing, uh, advertising, uh, working on commercials. So, I learned a lot about the importance of publicity, the importance of visibility. We said in advertising the thing that you want is visibility. It's not so much important what the commercial said is it's important that the product or service or company that we're advertising is right in front of somebody's face. It's top of mind awareness. That's what we were doing. There's a research market research activity called Measuring Top of Mind. If I say birds, what comes to the top of your mind? Well, it seemed to me when I was President of Audubon that top of mind was Audubon. I mean people would say Audubon, but they didn't necessarily connect it to the local Houston chapter of Audubon and they didn't really know what Audubon was doing. And of course, the reason it was top of mind was not because of the Audubon Society but was because of John James Audubon and all the publicity that surrounded him.

So, you know, I went from advertising into education and became a full professor, of course, but anyhow I never forgot what I learned in my brief tenure in the world of advertising. How important it was to get publicity and important it was to get the media to pay attention to you. And I knew how to do that. So, I - let me backtrack a moment, if I may.

I went to our big donors, I helped, we worked - and when I say I, we, the board, we worked on recruiting members and I obviously knew some people at Exxon from my days of advertising and I had some talks with them and they weren't too keen on working with Audubon because National Audubon in their magazine they were always lambasting the oil companies. And I said, you know, we're not, yes, we are part of National Audubon, but we're not National Audubon. They're a separate organization and we're not at war with you. We're on the same page. You know that you want to conserve habitat and we do too, but we need your help. So, I tried to establish good relations with Exxon in particular, and we got some really good money to help

purchase land, more property at, at High Island and pay for it. And then of course I went to this guy at Conoco.

Steve was a good friend and I had birded with him. I knew him pretty well and I went to Steve's office. I said Steve, can I come to your office and talk to you, he said oh sure, so I went to talked to him. And I said I want you to be on my board at Audubon. He said, I can't do that. I'm an oil man. You know, at that time it was Phillips, Phillips Petroleum Company. And he said, well, he was a relatively high-level executive at Phillips and he was a dedicated birder. I knew that, because I'd birded with him, knew him well, good guy.

And I understood his pain in his agony and I said but Steve, we're not against the oil company, we're not anti-oil. And you can even help Phillips by being part of Audubon. That is, you can see, you can show that, you know, Houston Audubon is not at war with the oil business. And oil business is fundamental to Houston's life and he, you know, so I had to twist his arms some more and convince him.

But he joined our board and he worked really hard and, you know, my idea with board members at that time was I am - just turn them loose, let them do what they need to do, what they want to do. And it was Steve's idea to work with this organization that was gradually becoming real, called a Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. But they didn't have any funding. They, they really were kind of at loose ends about what to do. And I just - Steve was really interested in forming Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, go for it.

I mean that's a great idea. And he was also interested, as we all were, in the Katy Prairie Conservancy. So, you know, the idea was to turn people through some of the things they were interested in and, you know, the rest is history. Look at GCBO and look at the Katy Prairie Conservancy. And I'm proud to say that our board was instrumental in getting those organizations going. And then later many of my board members became board members, including Steve Gast of, of GCBO and the Katy Prairie Conservancy.

As did I, I was a board member, later a board member and Vice president of GCBO, but we all were helping out other organizations that were involved in the same thing we were. That is - we never saw ourselves as competitors. We're all in this together, and we work with any group that wanted to do the same thing we wanted to do, which was conserve habitat for birds. I mean that's what we wanted to do.

Birds need habitat and we really began an aggressive approach to, to purchasing land habitat along the Gulf Coast, especially in High Island, as we all know in sealing the deal and as well as Bolivar Flats Shorebird Sanctuary, which Stennie Meadours was heading doing an incredible job of working with the state General Land Office to allow us a 100-year lease on that property.

And we then we of course acquired Horseshoe Marsh across the highway And, that's expanded. I mean, as you know, you on the Board know better than I do. How much that has expanded since the early 1990s when I left the Houston Audubon Board.

Audubon needed visibility, high visibility in the community. And then that's - I mentioned that a little earlier, so I apologize. And I went off on a tear about getting the oil companies involved, or

getting money from the oil companies and getting Steve Gast involved. But let me go back to that visibility thing, because that was important.

I needed to be at anything involved, any meeting that was involved with the Harris County Flood Control District any meeting that was held by the Army Corps of Engineers and I made it a point to be at those meetings and I spoke up. Well, when you start speaking up at those kinds of meetings, you get people's attention. And you also get the attention of the news media, the local news media, so television especially, and I was glad to do that in always on behalf of Audubon, we were opposed, very much opposed to some of the things that Harris County Flood Control District wanted to do. One of the things they want to do was channelize Rummel Creek. That goes through Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary. Over my dead body. I told them that straight to their face. You'll do that over my dead body and, you know, that didn't happen, as you know.

But in being really kind of, I don't want to say nasty, but aggressive and opposing some of these hair brained ideas that came up and doing it rather publicly got the attention of the news media. On behalf of Audubon. It's always Audubon does it. It's not me. Audubon disagrees with this. We challenged the Army Corps of Engineers on a number of issues and ended up - we were able to work out arrangements with them. With a lot of help. Didn't do it by ourselves. We had a lot of legal help.

But the point, my point was that we had to get Audubon in the forefront of people's minds, Houston Audubon in the forefront of people's minds when it came to helping birds, and we had to do that with television visibility.

We had to be on the news and I got the attention of national public radio and I don't actually, I don't remember what instigated that, but I did, I think, three interviews with NPR about some of the things that we were doing locally, the conservation of habitat, High Island, but also we were still involved with the Ridley Turtle Rescue, and at that time some of the reporters at NPR were - you know, shall I say this? They were kind of nasty.

They were - they were kind of smart-aleckey and they would ask smart-alecky kind of questions. Well, okay, you want to ask smart-aleck questions. I can give you a smart aleck answer. And when I was interviewed about the, Ridley Turtle issue. What are you going to do? You can't help the Turtles. Why are you so involved in this? And I said what do you want me to, do you want me to strap myself onto the back of a Ridley Sea Turtle and go out to sea with it and help it?

This was when we were lobbying, by the way, for the turtle exclusion device on shrimp boats. And the person who was interviewing me on NPR was - he just didn't understand why that was so important. So, I can be snarky if I have to be - I'm not normally that way, but I certainly could be.

But the point - my whole idea, it wasn't about me, it was about making sure that Audubon was noticed, was visible by local news media and it just fell into our lap that we got noticed by national news media, so take advantage of that. I'd learned that lesson in my young years, my very young years in the advertising business. What was the old saying? Any publicity's good publicity. You don't care how you spell my name, as long as you know my name, that kind of thing.

And it worked. I mean I think it worked because we got lots more people in Houston interested in Audubon, interested in joining Audubon and interested in membership in Audubon and that kind of publicity worked. And then getting really involved in challenging some of the local agencies, Harris County Flood Control, especially Army Corps of Engineers. We also negotiated with the Army Corps of Engineers to maintain Clear Creek as a freshwater stream.

And that was working with Friendswood Development Corporation at the time, which was a subsidiary at the time of Exxon. And actually, that was not a terribly hard negotiation, but it did take some, you know, talking. We had to do some, you know, no, I wouldn't say threats, but we had to say, look, we got to maintain at least a clear water stream in this area and we did it and to my knowledge it still is a clear water stream.

So, we made a number of accomplishments, other than the most important accomplishment of acquiring property along the gulf coast, especially at High Island in expanding those properties. And again, let me say these were volunteers that were helping with that, they were doing the hard work.

But another issue arose in which TxDOT, good old TxDOT, wanted to run a highway through Jones State Forest, Jones State Forest being the southernmost limit of the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Historically, the Red-cockaded Woodpecker was down here in Houston, but again, loss of habitat caused it to retreat and it became an endangered species, but it didn't go any farther south than FM 1488 and Jones State Forest.

Well, TxDOT was going to build a major highway right through, they were gonna expand 1488 and build a major highway right through, um, John's Forest. You know, again, over my dead body. So, I ended up talking with people at the Woodlands Development Corporation. They were in favor of running that highway south or looping it through the woodlands so that it would help, obviously, development of Woodlands North, The Woodlands North.

That Highway of course became Highway 242 but at the time TxDOT said no we're going to run it straight, it's cheaper, it's less expensive for us to run it straight through 1488. The idea was to run the highway - run a major highway through to US Highway 59. And we arranged a meeting with TxDOT at the headquarters for the Woodlands Development Corporation.

And I, you know, I'm always - my kneejerk reaction is never I'm going to sue. That is never my major reaction. My kneejerk reaction is what do we have in common, what can we talk about, what can we negotiate? And almost everything that we accomplished was accomplished through negotiations as opposed to having to threaten lawsuits. Now, a couple times we did have to threaten lawsuits, but that was never my kneejerk reaction. So, we were sitting at the conference table and trying to talk to TxDOT, trying to talk sense into TxDOT. Come on, think about this. You're going through the final habitat of an endangered species. We just can't let you do that. We just can't, come on. Woodlands Development Corporation that said you can run it through south, through us. And TxDOT, boy they were sticking to their routine. They wanted to do what they wanted. And so, I leaned over the table and I looked directly at him and I said, if you run that highway through the endangered species of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker through Jones State Forest, if you do that, Houston Audubon will sue you, I assure you of that. He backed off and said ok we'll talk later. The next day I got a phone call from him.

We decided we worked with the Woodlands Development Corporation and we're going to run it through the Woodlands, we're going to run it behind. And pay for it, so that's good. It was a win - win really, because it helped the Woodlands Development Corporation and it saved the Red-cockaded Woodpecker's habitat. Now, you know it as Highway 242 and it still connects with US Highway 59. So, it was a win, I think, for everybody.

Houston Audubon's doing great. I'm obviously keeping touch with what the Board's doing and you have my full support. You don't need any recommendations from me. You're doing fine and just keep doing it. And never forget you are a volunteer. What you're doing is a volunteer job and you work with volunteers and without those volunteers the gears of Houston Audubon wouldn't function. So that's not advice. I'm too old to give advice. So it's not my advice to you. It's just that's the way things work.

Houston Audubon Society exists because people believe in us. They believe in what we do and we have to remind them constantly, by the way, of what we're doing. We need to keep up that visibility, that Presence of Mind, an old advertising term, it's called Presence of Mind.

Given ten detergent products, what's the first thing that comes to your mind? That's called Presence of Mind. And for Tide detergent they wanted Presence of Mind. That is, they wanted that to be one of the first products that came up. Exxon gasoline. They wanted that product to be Presence of Mine. The first thing that comes up when do think about filling up with gasoline, where do you think about Exxon? Exxon. Exxon, of course.

Well, I wanted Houston Audubon to be Presence of Mind in terms of birds and bird conservation. When you think about saving the birds, who do you think about? And I wanted that to be Houston Audubon. Well, you're still doing that and I encourage you to continue to do that. Just put your focus in that and everything you can do to keep up that Presence of Mind, which we have, that you had, and you've done a great job of - you cannot imagine how important that is.

A lot of people do a lot of work under the radar, as they say, and they do good work under the radar and that's fine. But somehow or another, organizations have to be in the radar. I mean, they got to have a big presence in the radar and Houston Audubon needs to keep that presence in the radar, especially now when we're losing so much habitat. We're faced with a catastrophe of global warming. I mean, a huge catastrophe.

Houston Audubon has got to be front and center of what we're doing to help birds and conserve bird habitat in the midst of this catastrophic thing that's going to happen with the warming of the earth, A lot of birds are gonna disappear.

There's almost nothing we can do about that because of the climate change. Climate change will drive some birds to extinction and there's not a lot we can do about that. But in the long-term, new species will evolve and as long as we are doing our best to conserve habitat and Houston Audubon is doing its best to conserve habitat, the species that survive will thrive and new species will evolve.

After all, birds survived the great extinction that wiped out the dinosaurs and if this climate

catastrophe, G-d forbid, wipes us out. Birds will probably, they'll still be here. They'll just be in different species, evolve into different forms, as they did after great extinction with dinosaurs. That's not what we want to focus on.

We want to focus on what we're doing, Number one, to Presence of Mind, Houston Audubon stands for birds and stands for bird habitat, because in doing that we stand for people. We humans, our destiny is tied up with the destiny of birds. And I used to say this when I would do television interviews. In the old days, the story of the miners going down in mines with canary, you know, if canary keeled over they need to get out of there because methane gas filled up. Well, our birds are canaries and they're telling us, hey, climate's changing, something's going wrong, better do something about it.

Understanding that and helping conserve birds helps conserve us. You know, in a way the conservation of birds is the conservation of our civilization. The conservation of birds in many, many ways is the conservation of human life, as we know it, and maybe we should do a better job of making that connection. I didn't, unfortunately, think too much about it that way. When I was on the Board, I was wrapped up in really conserving habitat for birds and conserving birds, but in the intervening years it's become really apparent to me that the way birds go is the way we will go. By the way, I gave a speech about global warming as Houston Audubon President, to a big group of educators that were meeting down in, I think they were meeting in Friendswood, Texas and they were secondary school educators and it was a large group and it was a huge auditorium. There were maybe 800 people at least, maybe more, in that audience, and I had been invited to talk about this new thing we had known about for a long time called Global Warming.

And so, I had, I had been following that and I knew a fair amount about it and I had nice little slideshow about it and I gave a talk about it to that group and what was going to happen, the catastrophe that would be looming. And I was booed. I mean, that audience literally booed me. They were educators. These are supposed to be smart people, and they booed me - now the organizers came up to me later and apologized profusely. I'd like to find that group right now to see, not to get an apology from it. But, well what do you think now?

In that speech I talked about our, our lives are connected with lives of birds. When it comes to the global catastrophe, we may face the global warming. Remember, yeah, birds are going to suffer, but we are too. And by thinking about how we conserve birds, how we save birds, we're saving ourselves. That message I did present many, many times. Saving birds, we save ourselves. But I think that message is probably urgent, like emergency message right now. Saving birds is saving ourselves because of climate change.

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