

HOUSTON AUDUBON



ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

The landscapes, waterways and wildlife of the Houston Gulf Coast Region are the pillars of our economy, quality of life, and health and wellbeing. Preserving these natural resources is central to Houston Audubon's mission and our region's future. The value and importance of these resources to our livelihood could not have been more clearly underscored than during this year's COVID-19 pandemic.

While Houston Audubon ushered in the year on the wings of celebrating 50 years of promoting and protecting birds and their natural environments, this year's challenges—from cancelled programming to sanctuary closures—tested our resilience. But we ended the year with greater resolve, and along the way new opportunities were discovered and some really great things happened.

Houston Audubon's Raptor and Education Center and our High Island operations were enhanced with major habitat and public access improvements that strengthen our ability to reach new and more diverse audiences in different ways for years to come. In addition, our Bird-Friendly Communities' partnerships and leadership blossomed into a major win for Houston and the birds when Houston was certified as a Bird City under the state's Bird City Texas initiative in February 2020.

We are so proud of our city, the growing appreciation of birds in the Greater Houston area, and the many partners working to create a more welcoming place for birds. As more people seek open green spaces, fresh air, and a greater connection to nature, Houston Audubon's work remains a pivotal asset to our communities and to those that visit our area.

We are truly thankful to our donors, members, and volunteers for helping us better serve the residents and visitors of the Houston Gulf Coast Region.

Helen E. Drummond

HOUSTON AUDUBON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Growing concerns over the pandemic took hold just as Houston Audubon was entering its most busy, productive season. However, we acted swiftly to move programs online, deliver new virtual content, and bring the wonder of spring migration to homes around the globe while continuing to improve and enhance our sanctuary system for people and birds.

VIRTUAL EDUCATION

39
PROGRAMS

2,110
PARTICIPANTS

63,746 PAGE VIEWS

EDUCATION RESOURCES & BIRD GALLERY



HABITAT RESTORATION

4 ACRES
RESTORED

3,174 NATIVE PLANTS
SOLD & DONATED

DIGITAL BIRDING

52 LIVE BROADCASTS
WITH 94,429 VIEWS

15,337 PAGE VIEWS
BIRD CAMERAS



Data from March 15 - June 30, 2020

CONSERVATION

Houston Audubon owns and manages **17 nature sanctuaries** totaling **3,478 acres**. Hands-on conservation work focuses on restoring and maintaining bird habitat and monitoring the use of these habitats to inform ongoing restoration needs.

HABITAT CONSERVATION

We restored and maintained **239 acres** in Smith Oaks, Boy Scout Woods, Bolivar Flats, Winters Bayou and Damuth sanctuaries. Restoration consists of clearing wooded areas of invasive species, planting native plants and trees and using prescribed fire to restore coastal prairie habitat.



MONITORING

Monitoring provides critical feedback that allows us to understand bird population trends and take management action. We completed **108 urban bird surveys**, **72 coastal bird surveys**, **52 Smith Oaks Rookery surveys**, **14 boat-based rookery island surveys**, and launched our inaugural Rail Survey at Bolivar Flats to be held annually.

EDUCATION



662
EVENTS

Learning shouldn't stop as you age! Our Education Team visits senior care facilities with programs such as Bird Tales to teach residents about birds and nature. We also offer senior bus trips for hands-on outdoor nature experiences.

Houston Audubon's Education Team teaches children of all ages at schools, our sanctuaries, and virtually. Programs such as Bayou Buddies, BIRD Buddies, field trips, and school presentations educate children about wildlife and the importance of nature.



38,280
INDIVIDUALS
REACHED

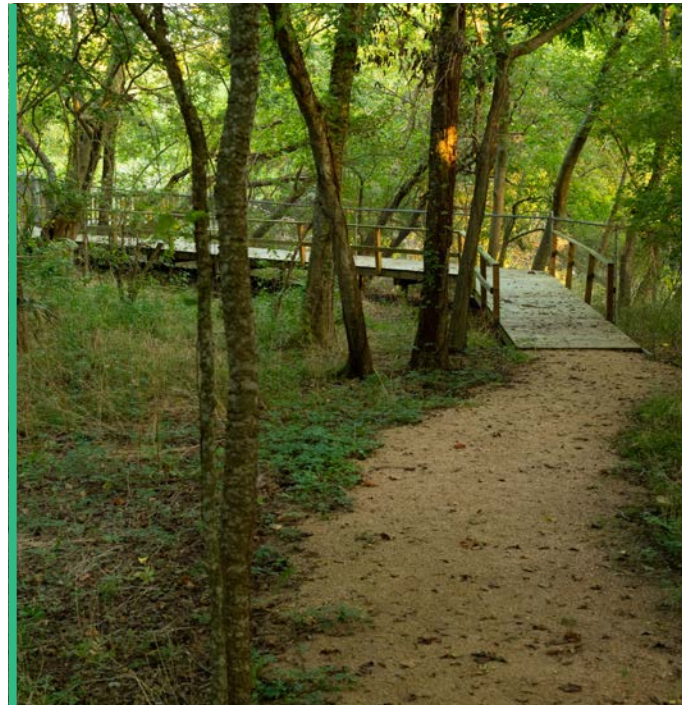
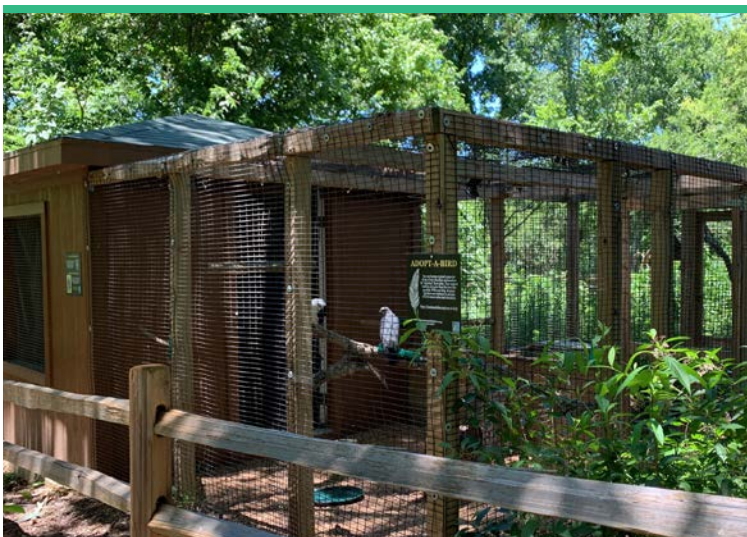


Adults and families have the opportunity to experience and learn about nature through events such as Owl Prowls, birding classes, field trips, virtual presentations, Raptor Photography Shoots, Behind the Scenes tours, and more!

URBAN SANCTUARIES

RAPTOR AND EDUCATION CENTER

Houston Audubon transformed the Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center into the Raptor and Education Center and opened to the public in 2019. The Center, home to our Education Department, provides a unique and affordable experience for the community to learn about birds and their significance to our environment while enjoying nature. The Center is located in southeast Houston, an area now seeing tremendous growth with infrastructure and accessibility improvements.



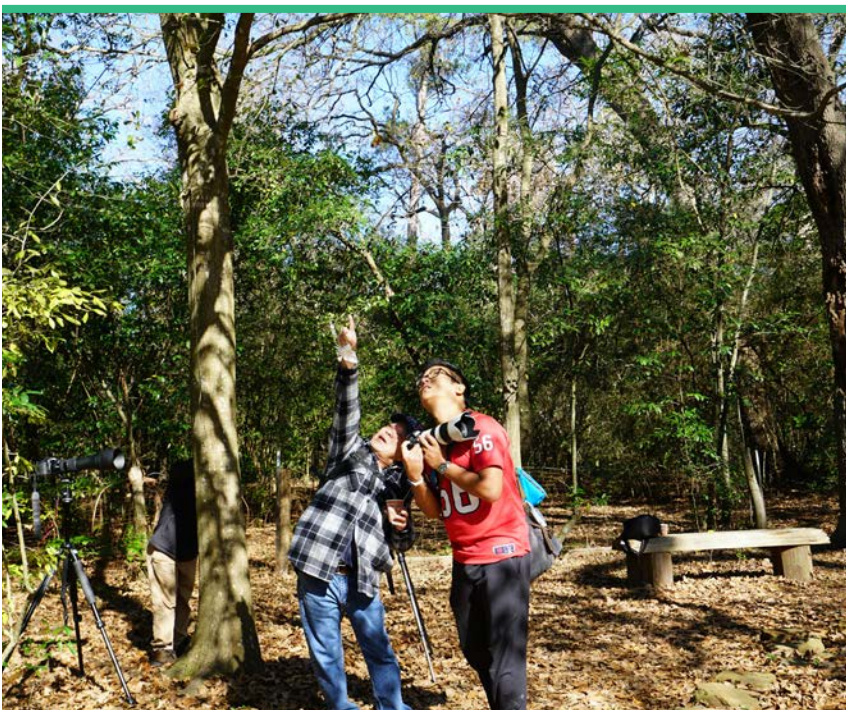
In addition to meeting our **14 raptor ambassadors** in their aviaries and various other education animals, visitors can enjoy an outdoor educational space that includes a butterfly garden, gazebo, pond with native plants, water feature, bird feeders, seasonal wetland trails, and views of the bordering Sims Bayou. Guests may also visit the education barn as well as the nature store in the log cabin.

URBAN SANCTUARIES



EDITH L. MOORE NATURE SANCTUARY

Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary continues to serve West Houston. We provide **17 acres** of hardwood, pine forest and freshwater habitats for wildlife to thrive and **1.5 miles** of trails and boardwalks for visitors to enjoy spending time in nature in the heart of the city. We welcomed over **1,000 visitors** this year.



COASTAL SANCTUARIES

DESTINATION: HIGH ISLAND

Major capital improvements were completed as part of the [High Island Master Plan](#), which was created to enhance stewardship and conservation of critical bird habitat and expand and elevate nature tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities for birders and non-birders alike.

Capital improvements of the master plan include:

- Kathrine G. McGovern Canopy Walkway
- Pumphouse Pavilion
- New restrooms at Smith Oaks Bird Sanctuary
- Hulsey Coastal Operations Center
- Clint and Mary Frances Morse Field Station
(construction will begin in 2021)

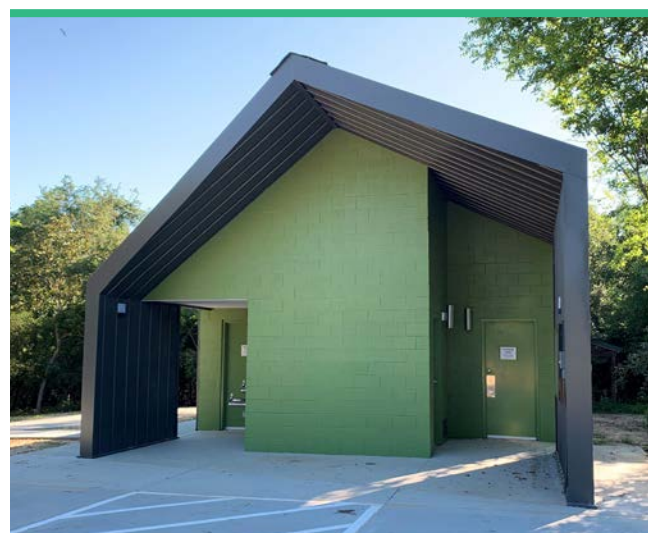
PUMPHOUSE PAVILION



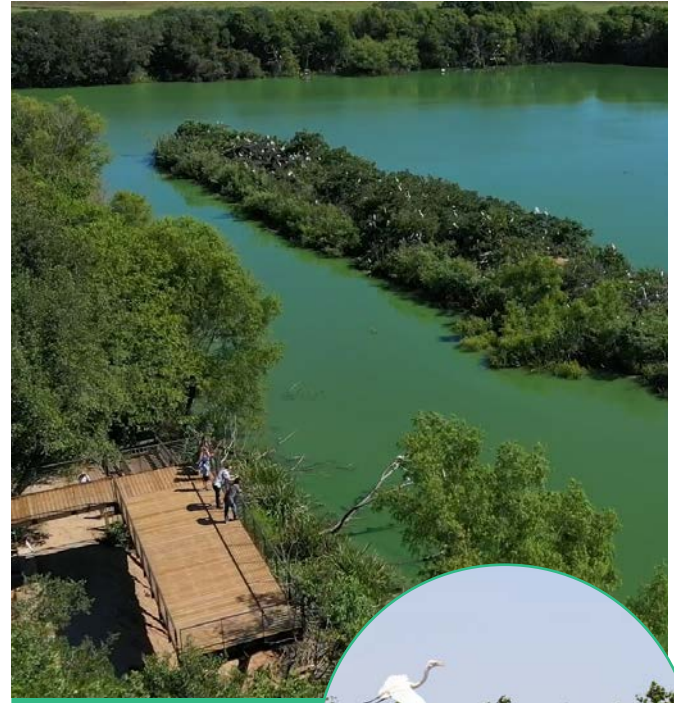
HULSEY COASTAL OPERATIONS CENTER



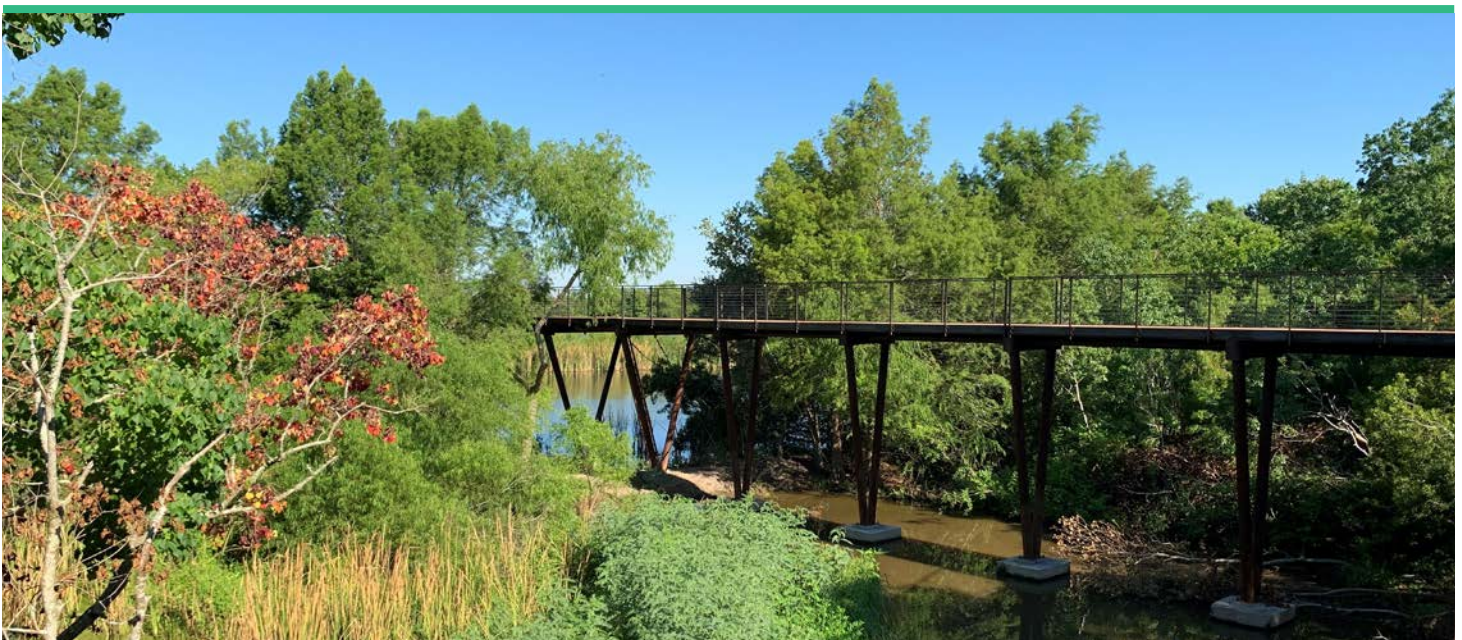
NEW RESTROOMS AT SMITH OAKS BIRD SANCTUARY



COASTAL SANCTUARIES



KATHRINE G. MCGOVERN CANOPY WALKWAY



BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES



HOUSTON: BIRD CITY

This past year, Houston received recognition as a **Bird City** through a certification program by Audubon Texas and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. In addition to efforts by local conservation partners, our work in restoring prairies, promoting native planting, providing bird-friendly education programs, and the Lights Out for Birds program were among the many initiatives that helped us achieve this designation.



BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

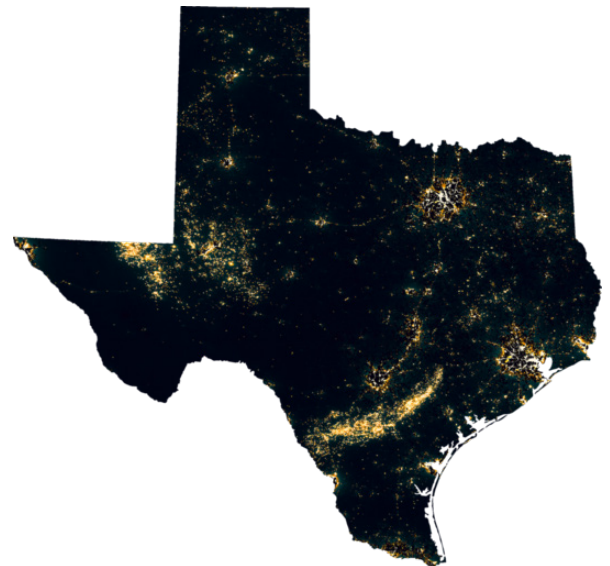
NATIVES PLANT NURSERY



Our Natives Nursery fills a unique niche by growing native plants from locally collected seed, sourced from coastal prairie remnants and other local habitat. We sold and donated over **10,000 native plants** to **450 individual households** and **10 large-scale restoration projects** in the greater Houston area.

LIGHTS OUT FOR BIRDS

Most North American migratory birds fly at night, and city light pollution can disorient birds on their paths, resulting in fatal collisions. Through a partnership with Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Houston Audubon monitors migration patterns and weather forecasts to actively encourage the community to turn their lights off through Lights Out Action Alerts, which reached over **370,000 people**.



VOLUNTEERS

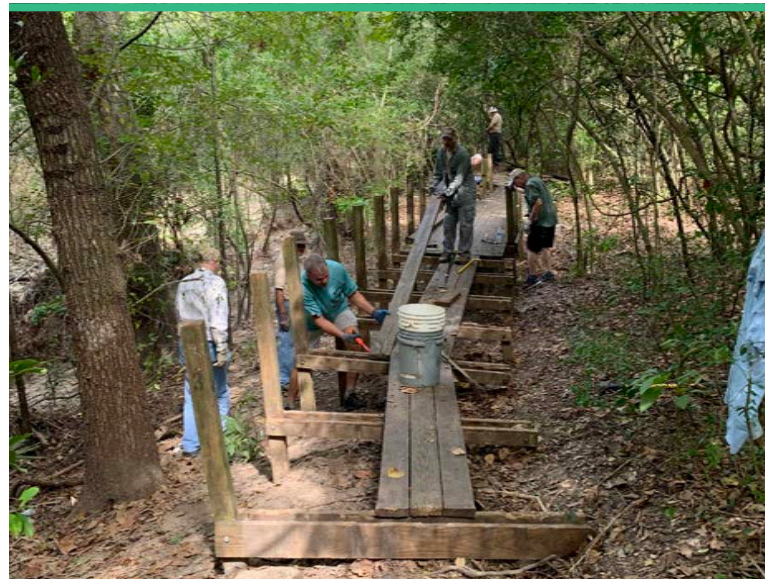
347
VOLUNTEERS

5,682
HOURS
WORKED



Volunteers are the backbone of the organization and provide invaluable gifts of time, talent, and energy. They help significantly with major projects such as maintaining trails, growing out nursery plants, removing invasive species, planting trees, supporting spring migration operations, and conducting monthly bird surveys and other community science efforts.

7 MILES
BOARDWALK
& TRAILS
MAINTAINED



FUNDRAISING EVENTS



BIRDATHON

Despite the unique challenges that our annual spring birding fundraiser faced due to COVID-19, we were able to keep the tradition alive this year. Modified rules and new categories allowed for individual participation, social distancing among groups, and digital birding via our bird cameras and live sanctuary broadcasts. Over **\$45,000** was raised by **65 participants**.

GOLDEN GALA

Houston Audubon celebrated 50 years of bird conservation at the Astorian on October 17, 2019. Over **\$355,000** was raised at the annual gala. Highlights included a silent auction, up-close and personal bird experience and photo op with Houston Audubon's education raptors, and a video highlighting the organization's milestones and accomplishments over the last 50 years.



DONORS

\$100,000+

Gene Graham Land Rescue Fund
Houston Endowment, Inc.
John P. McGovern Foundation

\$25,000 – \$99,999

The Brown Foundation, Inc.
Citgo Petroleum Corporation
Jane Cizik
Jacob and Terese Hershey Foundation
Laurel Ladwig
Kathrine G. McGovern
The Powell Foundation

\$10,000 – \$24,999

BP Foundation, Inc.
Charles Jago Elder Foundation
Mary Gwen and Ben Hulsey
Land Trust Alliance
Ellen and Rachel Naegeli
National Audubon Society
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
Bill Roberts
Louisa Stude Sarofim
Carol and Michael Stelling
Diana Strassmann and Jeff Smisek
Heather and Bob Westendarp
Betsy and Jim Winn
The Wortham Foundation

\$5,000 – \$9,999

American Bird Conservancy
Sara and Mark Bettencourt
Joan and Mark Brennecke
Robin and Dick Brooks
Chevron Humankind Matching Gift Program
Cherry and Nigel Curlet
Janice Sanders Green and Barrett Green
Kathryn H. Hale
Helm Foundation
Ann Wier Jones
Wendy and Tom Kelsey
Kinder Morgan Foundation
Dallas McNamara
Nancy and Clive Runnells Foundation
Katie and Patrick Oxford
Becky and Sam Smith
Sarah Flournoy and Don Verser
Bonnie and David Weekley

\$1,000 – \$4,999

Jonni and Skip Almoney
Amegy Bank
Audubon Foundation of Texas
Laura and Tom Bacon
Donna Bailey
Lucy and David Barrow
Leta and David Barry
Cindy and John Bartos

DONORS

The Bayou Fund	Siew Bee and Kenneth Hartman	Beth Robertson
Mark Beckemeier	Doris and John Heard	Roberta Sage
Annie Benzon	Linda and Tracy Hester	Diane Schenke
Susan and Brad Billetdeaux	Barbara and Ed Hickl	Patricia and Jeff Sheets
Beth and Harold Boone	Mary Hillard	Shell Oil Company Foundation
Harry Bowles	Maggie and Bob Honig	Matching Gifts
Caroline Staub Callery	Marcie and Chris Hysinger	Sines Family Conservation Fund
Claire and John Caudill	Jaycee Urban Development	SK Foundation
CenterPoint Energy	Foundation	Barbara and Louis Sklar
Marylene Chan and Tony Dang	Julie Jeter	Letha Slagle and Grant Gist
Melanie and Greg Cizik	Gwen Kunz	Katherine and Frank Smith, Jr.
Paula Cizik and Bill Wade	Yu-Ye and Cin-Ty Lee	Jane and Joe Smith
Cheryl and Chris Clark	Lindler Family Fund	Pam Smolen
Kassie and Fred Collins	John Lindsey	Kathryn Smyth Runnells
Copydotcom	Julia and Keith Little	Paul Sofka
Rebecque Demark	Lydick Family Foundation	Ann and Tim Stout
Peggy and Don d'Hemecourt	Rebecca Marvil and Brian Smyth	Strabo Tours
Anne and Gus Elmer	Audra and Dave Marye	Sunset Fund
Katy Emde	Kay and Larry Medford	Louise Sutton
Martha Eskew	Edie and Bill O'Brien	Emily Todd
Mary Fitzgerald and Albert	Alice Anne O'Donell	Wade Upton
Ramirez	Alisa O'Leary	Mort Voller
Ruth and Dan Flournoy	Sue and Chuck Orwig	Alexander Webb
Julia and Phil Garrett	Patricia Cravens	Anna and Tim White
Garver/Black/Hilyard Family Fund	Peterson Charitable Lead Trust	William S. and Lora Jean Kilroy
Elizabeth and Steve Gast	H. Russell Pitman	Foundation
Cullen Geiselman	Susan and King Pouw	David Woodard
Lou Ann and Milton Gray	Prometheus Charitable Trust	Paula and Bob Wynhoff
Patricia Griffin	Fairfax and Risher Randall	Susan Young
Ann Hamilton	Lee and Don Richardson	

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

JULY 1, 2019 - JUNE 30, 2020

REVENUE

Contributions	\$ 1,184,507
Special events	421,101
Direct donor benefits	(68,093)
Admission and program fees	111,953
Merchandise sales	60,794
Net investment return	68,056
Total revenue	1,778,318

EXPENSES

Program services:	
Sanctuaries and habitat conservation	562,668
Environmental education and outreach	541,862
Total program services	1,104,530
Management and general	210,186
Fundraising	240,543
Total expenses	1,555,259

CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

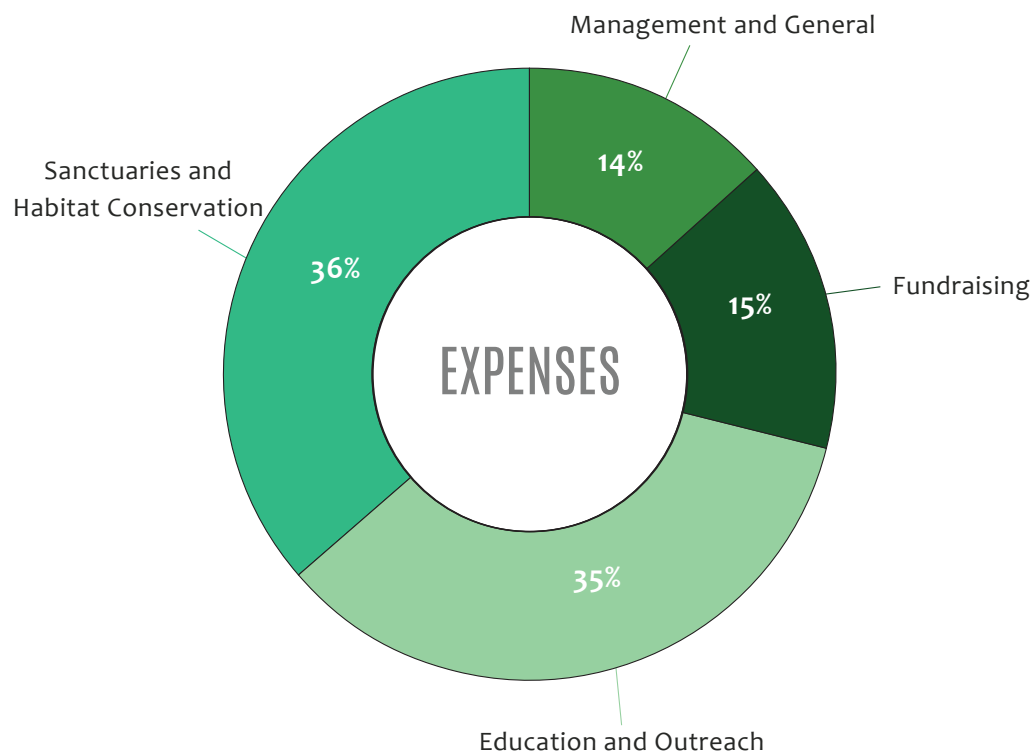
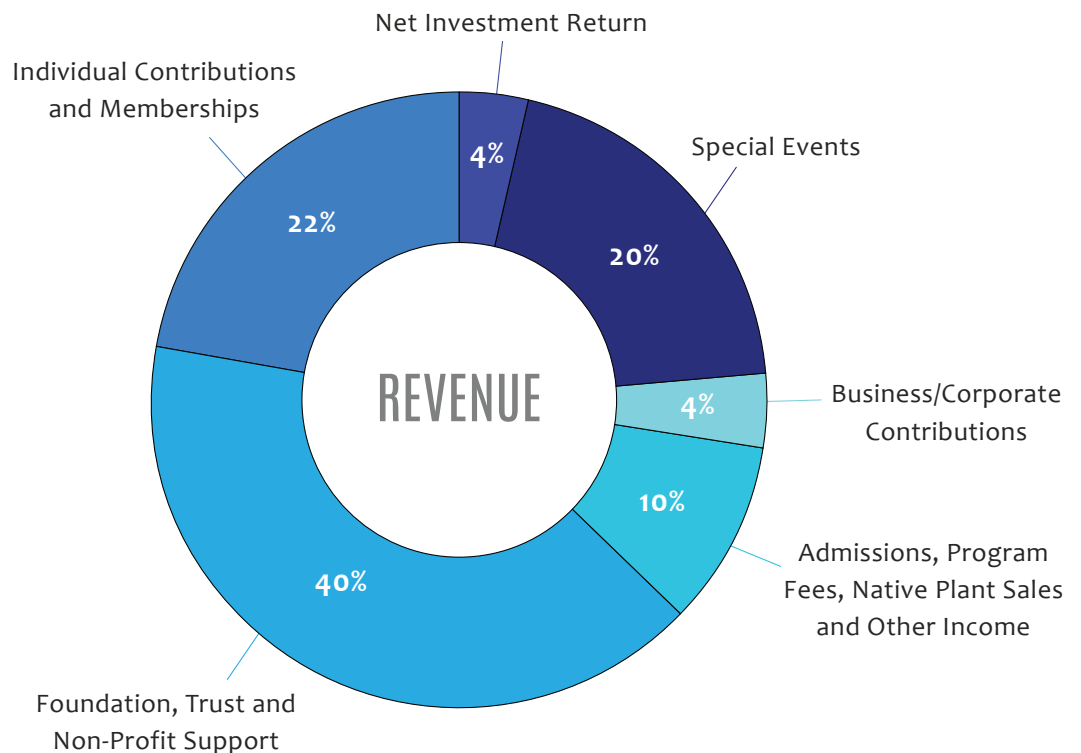
	223,059
Net assets, beginning of year	11,143,020
Net assets, end of year	\$ 11,366,079

Audited financial statements available at houstonaudubon.org/financials.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

TOTAL REVENUE
\$1,778,318

Diverse sources of revenue are key to our success and help us remain resilient in challenging times.



TOTAL EXPENSES
\$1,555,259

71% of our expenses directly support our core mission.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS ADVISORY COUNCIL



The inaugural Young Professionals Advisory Council (YPAC) kicked off in 2019. The YPAC aims to engage the next generation of conservationists and build awareness of Houston Audubon's mission among young professionals.

HOUSTON BIRD WEEK

Bird Week is YPAC's keystone project. Working with local conservation partners, YPAC coordinates a week of events and outreach activities centered around our region's birds and wildlife. In conjunction with Houston Bird Week, the YPAC held a community voting contest to determine the official Bird of Houston, the Yellow-crowned Night-Heron. The YPAC also worked with Bakfish Brewing to create PALEican, a bird-themed beer that supports Houston Audubon with every purchase.



STAFF & LEADERSHIP

STAFF

Helen E. Drummond, Executive Director
Pete Deichmann, Coastal Sanctuaries Manager
Aimee Friend, Development Director
Richard Gibbons, Conservation Director
Julie Gold, Corporate Relations Director
Bernice Hotman, Accounting Assistant
Jeanette Lambert, Education Specialist
Lauren Miheli, Volunteer Coordinator & Sanctuary Manager
Berri Moffett, Admin & Database Assistant
Trey Morris, Sanctuary Steward
Rachel Schipul, Operations Manager
Zineera Seth, Marketing & Events Manager
Barbara Thompson, Controller
Anna Vallery, Conservation Specialist
Mary Anne Weber, Education Director

ALUMNI COUNCIL

Cy Clark	Gibbs Macdaniel, Jr.
Lynn Forster	Stennie Meadours
Kay Hale	Jeff Mills
Ed Hickl	Barbara Railey
Bernice Hotman	Donna Rybiski
Gwen Kunz	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Timothy H. White , Past President	
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Mary Carter	Glenn Olsen
Tony Dang	Letha Slagle
Rebecque Demark	Pam Smolen
Janeen Judah	Bob Westendarp
Andy Lopez	

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Julia Garrett	Jim Winn
Stephen Gast	



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