

Texas Ornithological Society High Island Sanctuaries

Corrie Herring Hooks Woods Sanctuary and Mary Edna Crawford Bird Sanctuary are part of the extensive preserved area of High Island, Texas. The Hooks Woods site was donated to the Texas Ornithological Society in 2001 by heirs of the Hooks family. This property has been owned by this family since the early 1900's. A popular hotel was constructed on the site in the 1920s and burned down during the 40's. The Hooks family has a long history with Texas Ornithology. They were the primary funders of Oberholser's "The Bird Life of Texas" and various family members studied birds through the years.



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LOCATION: High Island, Jefferson County, Texas.

SIZE: 2 ha (5 acres)

HABITAT: The Hooks site is encircled by a cyclone fence and contains about 3 acres of wooded lots with dense shrub/vine understory. Canopy is comprised of liveoak, wateroak, hackberry, ash and to a lesser extent Chinese tallow and chinaberry with dominant trees being about 80 years old. Understory consists of privet, yaupon, beautyberry, English ivy, trumpet creeper, and green-brier. Crawford Sanctuary is primarily live oaks and grass. There are plans to plant additional trees here to improve the habitat.

BIRDS: High Island is known as one of the major neotropical migrant stopover sites on the Texas Coast and this is the first block of woods migrants will have access to when making landfall in the spring.

CONSERVATION: All forested areas on High Island are critical for transgulf migrants. The preservation of any remaining habitat, regardless of size, is of vital importance to these birds. TOS has plans to improve the habitat of Hooks Woods, and make it more accessible to birders.



Site Partner:

Texas Ornithological Society.

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