



Greg Harman <gregharman@gmail.com>

Urban Rookeries

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Thu, Mar 9, 2023 at 9:53 AM

To: President BexarAudubonSociety <PresBAS@bexaraudubon.org>

Britt,

I've been thinking about this a bit since receiving your email. I can see why you feel we misrepresented your position and do want to get clear. I agree Deceleration does need to share more from Audubon as to its official position as well as its practice. This offered clarification, however, raises additional questions that I would like to understand before publishing. I've shared your request and statement w/ my co-editor, Marisol Cortez. I will discuss the matter with her today. (She teaches two classes today so getting a dedicated block of her time isn't easy.) I think it's safe to say we are interested in accurately reflecting Audubon's position but also believe that Audubon's position isn't only what it says it is but includes the accumulation of actions (and non-actions) on this issue. So I am requesting clarification from you beyond what you have written.

- You write that Bexar Audubon opposes to the bird harassment measures at Brackenridge Park. Correct? Considering those efforts have been ongoing since 2018, can you tell me what displacement measures the organization has opposed and at what time?
- Can you share any emails, letters, public statements, newsletters, petitions, etc., that Bexar Audubon has issued demonstrating its opposition to the displacement measures at Brackenridge?
- You write that Bexar Audubon supports "the continuance of the rookeries"? The continuance of a rookery at Brackenridge? At Elmendorf?
- I believe birds seeking to re-nest at Elmendorf now represent a "manageable size." Do you support their reestablishment of a rookery there and call for a cessation of displacement efforts at the lake park?
- Can you share any emails, letters, public statements, newsletters, petitions, etc., that Bexar Audubon has issued demonstrating its support for the right of the rookeries to continue to exist at either location?
- I understand you support relocation through positive measures (creating a better habitat). Do you believe your proposed alternative habitat can be effective in the absence of dislocation/harassment efforts making current nesting sites less attractive? Or is positive relocation contingent on negative reinforcement?
- I appreciate your statement recognizing the significance of these birds to indigenous peoples. Have you written on this aspect previously or supporting the right of indigenous peoples at a decisionmaking level?

A few questions about the facts in your statement:

- Was there ever any actual tracking confirming these populations have expanded because of dislocation of this rookery in southern Bexar? Or from Elmendorf to Brackenridge? Or is this a statement of anecdotal understanding?
- JBSA never ran the deterrence program at Elmendorf, to my knowledge. The sign that went up a couple days ago there says City of San Antonio with USDA (and now they add TX Parks & Wildlife and US Fish & Wildlife).

Thanks for considering these questions.

Greg

[Quoted text hidden]