

LEOH Trip

SMITH OAKS BIRD SANCTUARY/ROOKERY

April 19, 2023



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(houstonaudubon.org)



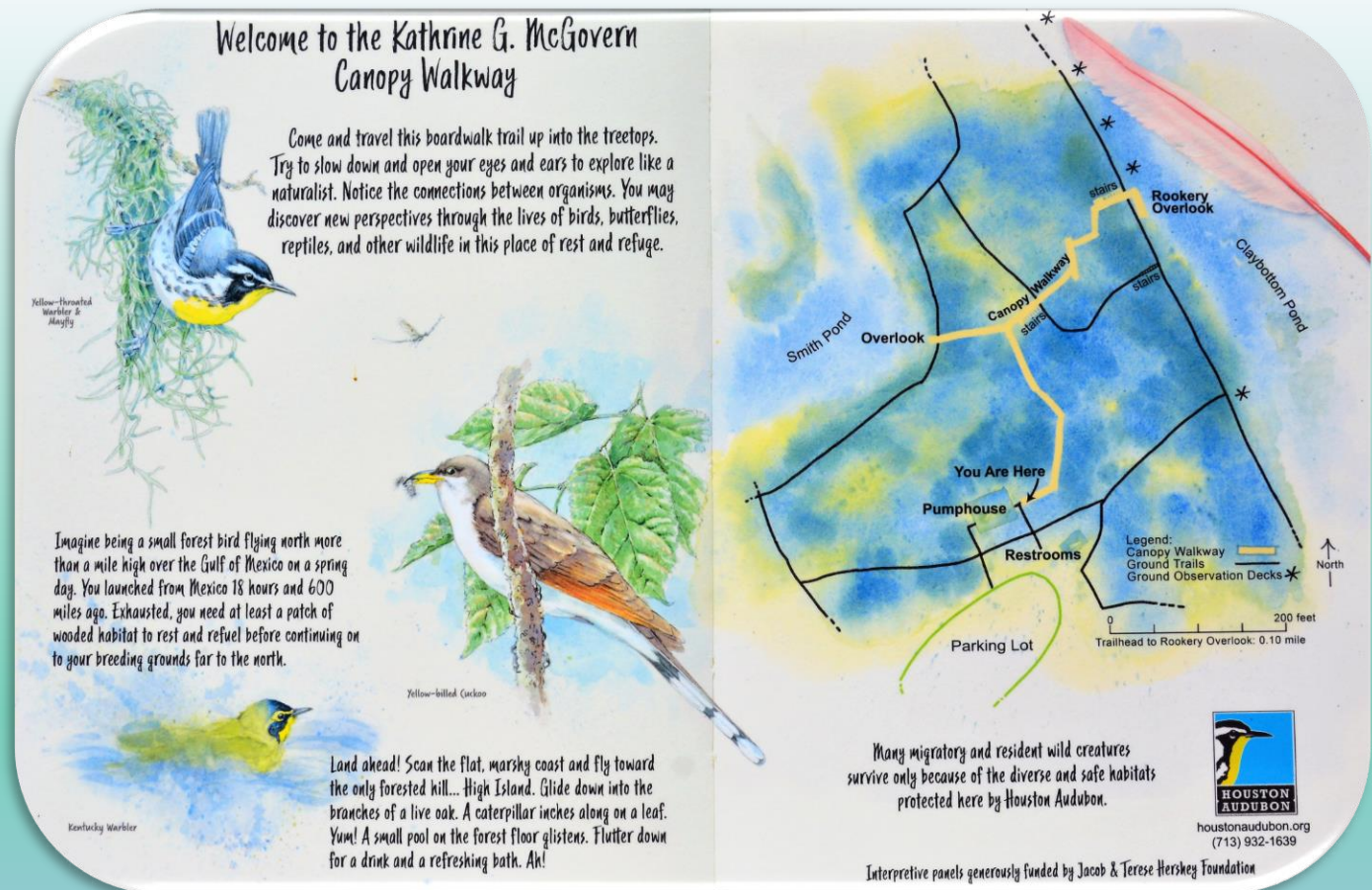
Hmmm – this scene was familiar. Everyone arrived on time in the church parking lot for the trip – everyone except the bus driver with the bus! After a very lengthy wait, some members decided they could wait no longer, and left; others tried to make the best of it, and enjoyed visiting in the church Fellowship Hall. At long last the bus arrived, and we were on our way!

NOTE: Following the trip, trip coordinator Ann Fairchild discussed the issue with the appropriate Precinct One staff, and we were rewarded with an additional bus trip in Quarter Two.

Thank you, Ann!



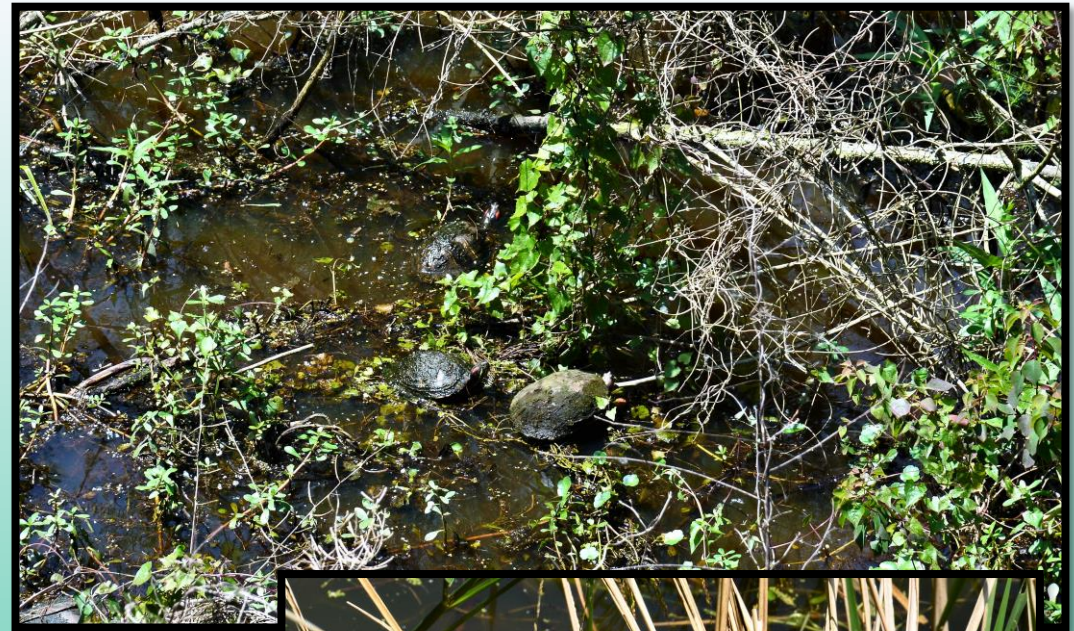
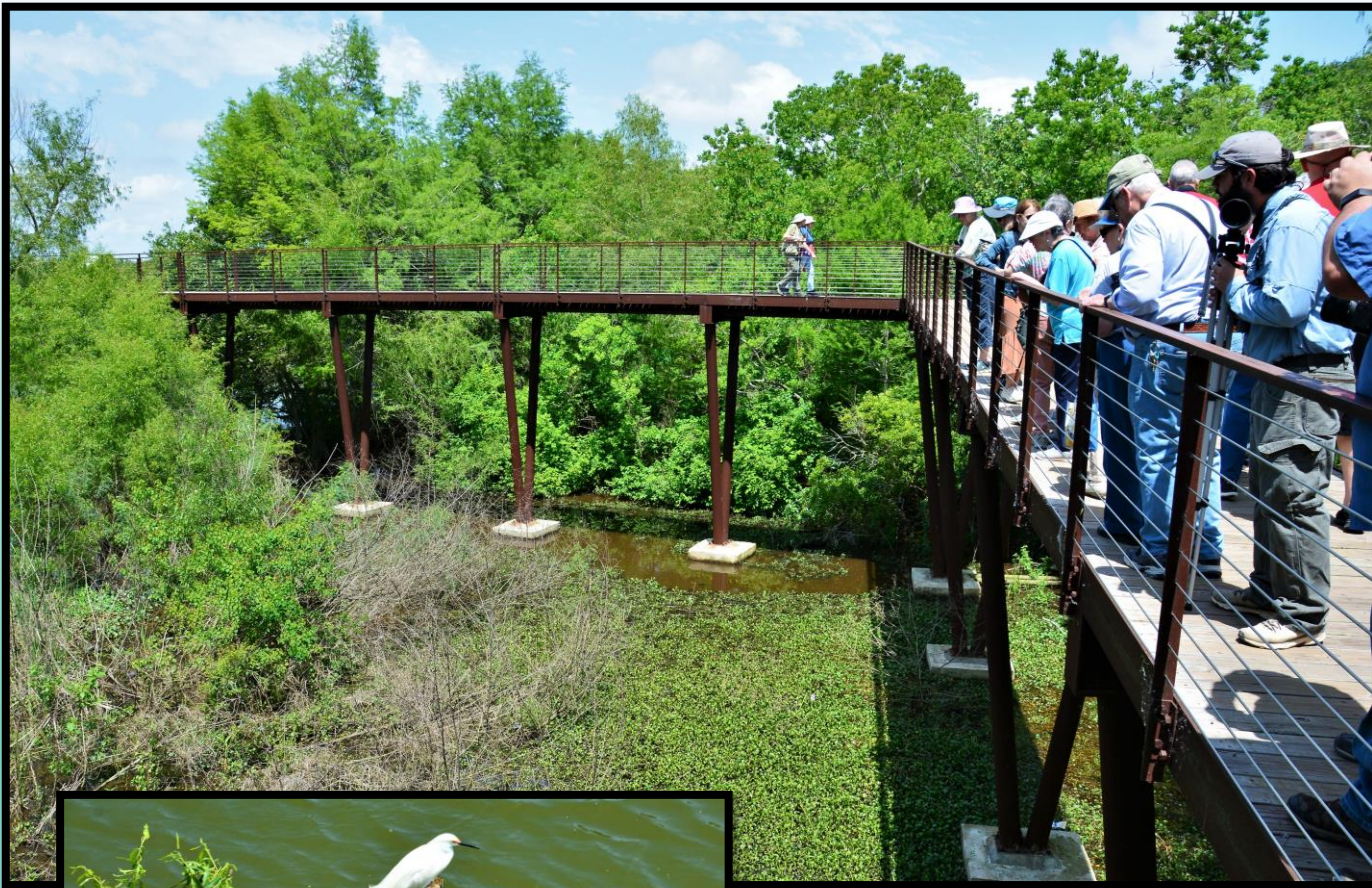
Thanks to our apologetic, safe, and courteous bus driver, we arrived at our destination late but happy to be at the sanctuary!



We were greeted by staff, who provided informational pamphlets, and pointed out a few souvenirs and other items for purchase.

After meeting with our guide, we embarked on a tour of the rookery via the Kathrine G. McGovern Canopy Walkway.

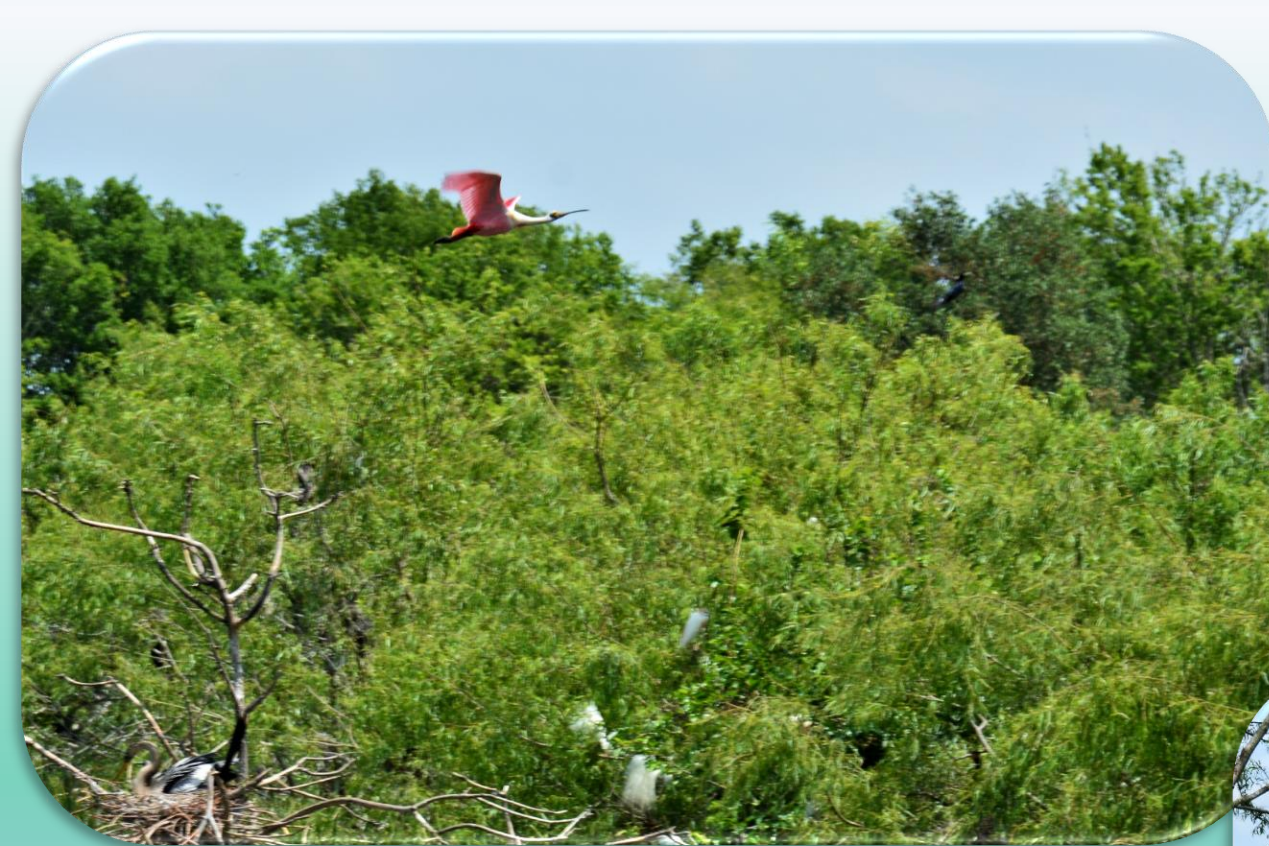
What a wonderful way to view wildlife above and below us!



The weather was perfect for a stroll on the canopy walkway, as we made our way to the main bird-viewing area.

Along the way, we spotted turtle gatherings, a turtle sharing a branch with a bird, flowering vegetation, and a (very hard to see) brightly colored duck, with blue-green body, and red and yellow beak.





This is what we came to see (and hear)!
Trees that were full of a large variety
of nesting and migratory birds!
NOTE: A spotting scope and/or powerful
binoculars are a must for a visit here!







Birds don't necessarily need a tall tree to call home.
But they must definitely stay on the lookout for alligators
(like the one in this photo)!



Everyone enjoyed a lunchtime stop here,
in Winnie, on the return to Houston.



It's always nice when guests can join members on a trip, particularly when a guest may be someone you haven't seen in many years. Ken Legler, pictured above with LEOH member Mary Dix, attended the same high school as LEOH members Ann Fairchild and husband Kevin Kinsella. When Ken learned of the upcoming trip, he was put on the waiting list, and then was able to go, following a cancellation.

Hopefully we shall see him again
(and thank him in person for a few of the photos
used in this presentation).