



# Migratory Bird Prevention Education

Animal Shelter Advisory Committee - March 8, 2023



## Prevention of Migratory Birds in 2023



### The Cattle Egret

Is a stocky heron with a wingspan of 35" to 38" approx. 18" to 22" in height and weighs 9.5 to 18.1 oz.

Mainly white plumage, a yellow bill and long grayish yellow legs.

The EGRET feed mostly on insects, especially grasshoppers, crickets, flies, moths and spiders. They will eat frogs, lizards and earthworms.

City of Burleson  
Animal Services

817-426-9283

[animalshel@burlesontx.com](mailto:animalshel@burlesontx.com)

### Migratory Birds (Egrets/Herons)

Texas is a major route for migratory birds shuttling between the United States and Canada. This annual event can impact residential, commercial and industrial properties. As you may know, your neighborhood and surrounding area has been affected by nesting egrets and herons. Initially only a few birds arrived during the early spring (March and April) of this year and abruptly hundreds of birds moved in and began establishing nests for nesting season.

Although this natural cycle can be beautiful, the challenges associated can be overwhelming. The nesting birds bring challenges such as noise, odor and significant amounts of excrement covering streets, sidewalks, cars and mailboxes on public and private property.

City staff is unable to address any of these issues while the birds are nesting. Cattle egrets are Protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which means that these birds or their young (including eggs), or their current **active nests** cannot be killed or destroyed. Violators are subject to hefty fines and or penalties.



EARLY SPRING  
HABITAT HARRASMENT PROGRAM

It is in everyone's best interest to try and stop the problem before it starts this **spring**. The city needs the help of residents to address this situation.

#### NOISE

Frequent Loud noise will keep the EGRET in flight and eventually move on. AIR HORNS are commercially available at Wal-Mart, Sam's and auto supply shops. Wood spoon, Pots / Pans Drums, trumpet, etc. will do as well. Make sure your neighbor(s) have been consulted.

#### LIGHT

Laser light, high power spot light, red lenses, strobe light, red flashing light will also keep them from wanting to nest on your property. These are also available commercially and are relatively inexpensive.

#### WATER

High pressure water works well in preventing new (non active) nests from being formed.

EGRETS don't like the water spray and will keep from landing and roosting.

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## Preventing Migratory Bird Nesting Homeowner Checklist

### February-March

- Remove any old, abandoned nests.
- Trim your trees. Remove deadwood, thin tree canopy to allow sunlight between limbs/trees.
- Familiarize yourself with "sentry" birds. They are the first to arrive, looking for good nesting places.
- Find out how your neighborhood plans to distribute news of bird sightings.
- Watch for "sentry" birds and report sightings to your neighbors.
- Each species has a different breeding period. Be on the lookout for these birds beginning in:

February - Yellow-Crowned Night Heron

March - Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Snowy Egret

- Check daily for birds and nesting material in your trees.
- Begin scare tactics as soon as you see birds on or near your property.
  - Use noisemakers, water spray or shine lights at night.
  - Hang "scare eye" balloons or other moving objects in trees.
  - Use long poles, tennis balls or water hoses to disturb early nesting material.
- The City has two migratory bird deterrent sound systems that can be strategically placed in areas to discourage Egrets from settling in neighborhoods.
- The City's Animal Service Department will be on high patrol during the start of the nesting period and can deploy preventive noise making devices.



- **DO NOT HARM BIRDS OR EGGS.** Migratory birds are protected by international treaty. Once birds begin sitting on nests, eggs are probably present. You cannot kill, harass, move or disturb the birds during nesting season.

If you have dead birds on your property, you can call Animal Services at 817-426-9283 for pick-up.



Cattle Egret



Yellow-Crowned  
Night Heron

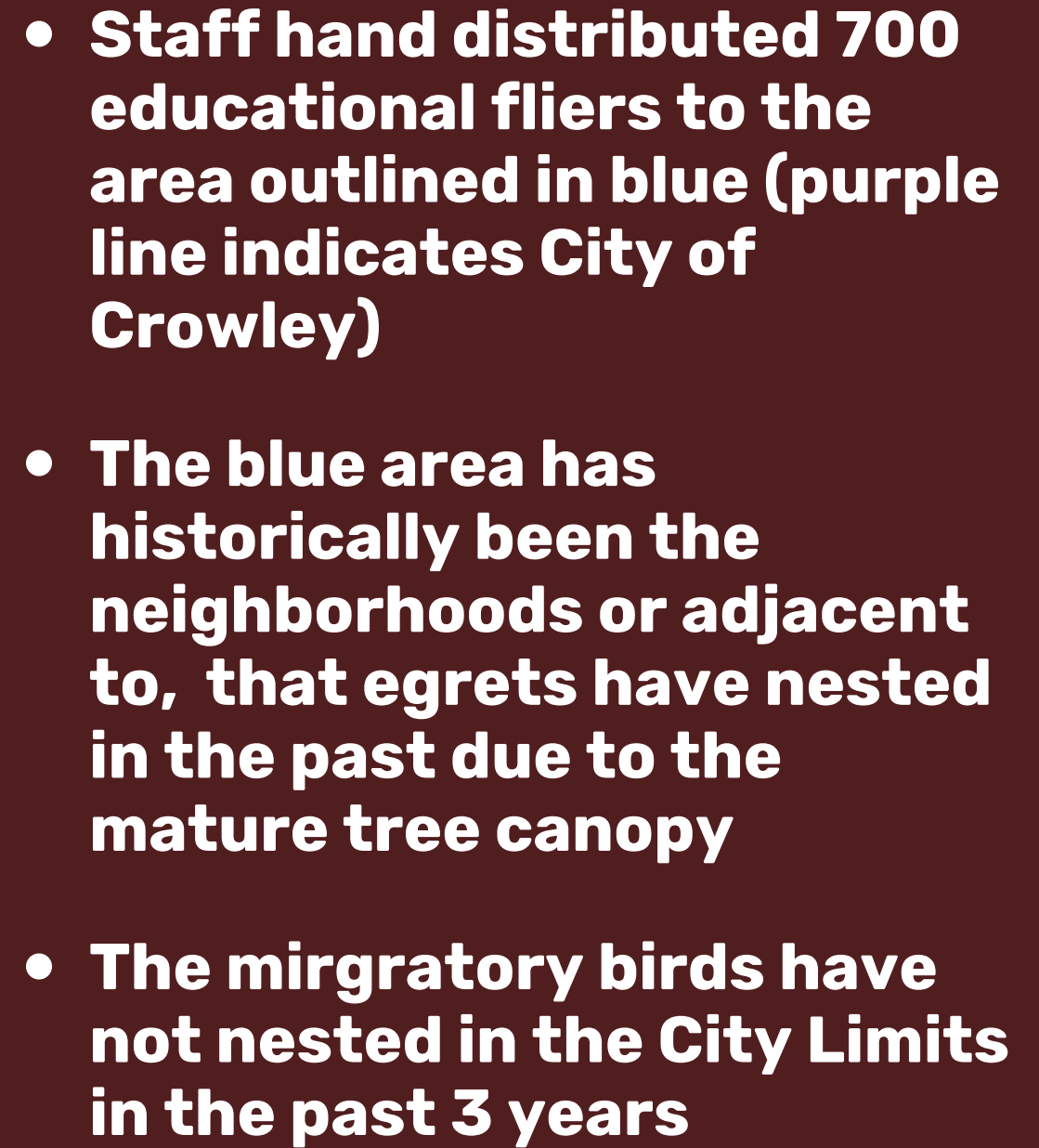


Snowy Egret



Great Blue Heron





# Questions?