

IF  
YOUR O.G.  
DUES ARE PAST DUE  
PLEASE SEND THEM IN.  
DON'T LET THIS BE  
YOUR LAST  
NEWSLETTER!

# The Spoonbill

A Publication of the Ornithology Group  
(OG)  
of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club

April 2012  
Vol. 61 No. 4

**Bayland Community Center  
6400 Bissonnet, Houston**

**Monthly Meeting  
Monday, April 2nd**

**GENERAL MEETING - 7:00 P.M.**

**LEARNING CORNER  
6:30 P.M.**

**Pam Smolen & Chimney Swifts**

**PROGRAM:**

**TROPICAL BIRDING STAFF**

**Scott Watson - "Birding South Africa"**

## **Cape to Kruger: The Birds and Big Game of South Africa**

In some ways South Africa is typical of Africa. Boasting the classic scenes of vast parks sprinkled with big game, including the "Big Five" (Leopard, Lion, elephant, buffalo, and rhino). However, in other ways it is atypical: it holds more endemics than any other African country and is home to many of the regional specialties found here. Many of these are concentrated in the west of the country around the scenically spectacular Western Cape District. Birds can be seen in the shadow of Table Mountain, and the striking blooms of *protea* flowers make for dramatic backdrops to the birding. In the east of the country the landscape turns to the picture postcard images of Africa, here Kruger National Park boasts good diversity and density of large mammals. The camps in the park come loaded with confiding, photogenic birds; like shimmering iridescent starlings to bold and boisterous hornbills. In just three weeks nearly five hundred bird species and over fifty mammal species might be seen. Coupling this with spectacular landscapes, vibrant blooms, and a good infrastructure, make this a popular choice for first time visitors to the African continent.

Tropical Birding tour guide Scott Watson will highlight the very best of South Africa, from his experiences crisscrossing the country while leading tours there. Scott was studying Environmental Biology at university when his semesters away in China, New Zealand and Arizona, got him hooked both on traveling and world birding. Long stints volunteering at Tandayapa Bird Lodge in Ecuador, and Guapi Assu Bird Lodge in Brazil followed, after which Scott joined Tropical Birding in 2010. Since then he has moved to Capetown, South Africa, and wasted no time in traveling extensively around South Africa, and also across the continent, where he has led tours from South Africa to Ethiopia to Madagascar. Originally from Ontario, Canada, Scott now resides in Capetown, in the rare times when he is not away on tour elsewhere!

**Get ready, Get set, Go... for Spring Migration!**

**Tropical Birding will once again be joining us this spring in High Island!  
Bringing back popular daily walks, field trips, and conducting workshops.**

**THE DAILY WALKS START ON MARCH 31st**

**Find schedule, topics, and how to sign up for workshops on the Houston Audubon Website**

## Sabine Woods and Environs Field Trip Announcement

April 21, 2012

TOS Sabine Woods

7 AM

Our spring migration monthly field trip this year is to TOS Sabine Woods and the surrounding area. This includes McFaddin NWR, Sea Rim SP, Pilot Station Road, the mulberries along SH 87, as well as a few other spots that are not as well-known. We will be in search of various migrant warblers that should be around in fairly large numbers as well as other migrant near passerines, like hummingbirds, vireos, grosbeaks, buntings, and orioles.

The main goal for the trip will be migrant passerines since April, and late April in particular, is the prime time for songbird migration. Special emphasis will be placed on finding as many species of warblers as we can. Over 30 species can be found on a really good day. Other good birds that we could encounter would be Fish crow, lingering winter birds such as Surf scoter, Greater scaup, Horned grebe, Northern gannet, and Lesser black-backed gull.

This is planned as an all-day trip because temperatures should still be agreeable during this time of the year, but if we happen upon a very hot day we may elect to cut the day short. We will bird rain or shine. Remember, rain can mean a fallout day may be in the cards. If it looks like it is going to rain don't let that stop you from joining us because you could just miss a magical spectacle! Come out and enjoy a nice day of warblering in the Sabine Pass Area.

**Directions:** Meet at the parking lot for TOS Sabine Woods at 7:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2012. To get there from Houston take IH 10 east out of Houston to Winnie. In Winnie take Hwy 73 east towards Port Arthur. As you enter the outskirts of Port Arthur you will exit to south Hwy 82 and take Hwy 82 to Hwy 87. Take Hwy 87 south to TOS Sabine Woods, which will be on your right after you go through Sabine Pass.

**Be sure to bring:** binoculars, a hat, sunscreen, raingear (in case it rains, but we will bird rain or shine), water, snacks if you would like, a scope (if you have one) and camera. If you plan to bird in the afternoon make sure to bring a lunch.

--Adam Wood, OG Field Trip Coordinator, 713-515-1692, [birdsondabrain@earthlink.net](mailto:birdsondabrain@earthlink.net)

### **FIELD TRIP LEADER NEEDED!**

#### **O.G. Field Trip April 21st** **TOS Sabine Woods and Environs**

Adam will not be able to make this trip and is looking for a volunteer to serve as a liaison for the field trip. The liaison's responsibilities will be to keep the group together, make sure all participants get to each birding stop during the course of the day, and to compile a bird list total for the trip.

If anybody would like to volunteer to be the liaison for this trip or has any questions about the responsibilities of a liaison please contact Adam Wood.

--Adam Wood, OG Field Trip Coordinator, 713-515-1692, [birdsondabrain@earthlink.net](mailto:birdsondabrain@earthlink.net)

## Tips on How to Lead a Field Trip

### Before the trip:

- 1) The field trip coordinator will need the following information: date, name of site to be visited, meeting time for possible carpooling, expected ending time, walking distance and type of terrain to be covered (plus possibly a brief description of what to expect - species, interesting facts, recommended attire, what to bring - sack lunch, binocs, money for restaurant, etc.). Include your phone number and/or email in announcements.
- 2) The weekend (or the day) before the field trip, scout the location if possible, to check for unexpected changes or problems. You can also get a preview of what birds will be expected on the trip.
- 3) Be available to take calls or email the night before.
- 4) Depending on the size of the group, have a second leader to keep a leader at the front and end of the group.
- 5) Be prepared with a sign-up sheet for cell phone numbers. If carpooling make sure everyone has your cell phone # for unexpected situations in route.
- 6) If meeting to then carpool have a map of the route you will drive for each car heading out.

### At the start of the trip:

- 1) Show up at the meeting place early (rain or shine). If only one person shows up, do the trip together if you two choose.
- 2) Greet newcomers. Introduce yourself as the field trip leader (say something about yourself). Ask people to introduce themselves. Speak loud enough for all. Stand so that your audience will not be looking into the sun when you talk.

### During the trip:

- 1) Speak so that all can hear. Wait for everybody to catch up if the group is large. If you must, say it again when the rest are within earshot.
- 2) When a bird is spotted, make sure everyone who wants to see it, gets to. If the bird is still visible, don't move on until all who need it get a look.

You can do it! Consider being a helper on a field trip to warm up your skills. In your first experiences choose a local destination that you enjoy and are familiar with, one of short or half day schedule to get your leadership wings beating. Have Fun!

Don't let the same few volunteers bear the responsibility of doing it all the time. Anyone who likes to bird can be a field trip leader, you don't have to be an advanced birder to lead, just a willing one.

**If people do not start to step up to the plate, your organization will stop being a viable organization.**



# APRIL FIELD TRIPS & EVENTS

G.C.B.O. QUINTANA SPRING FLING  
APRIL 1ST TO 30TH  
BIRD SANCTUARIES AT QUINTANA  
STAFF & VOLUNTEERS ASSIST VISITORS  
[www.gcbo.org](http://www.gcbo.org)

Monday April 9th

HERMANN PARK SURVEY  
MONTHLY EVENT  
SECOND MONDAY  
CONTACT: JIM WINN

**Save  
April 11th  
for Sibley!  
H.A.S.**

Monday April 16th

Jesse H. Jones Park  
THIRD MONDAY BIRD WALK  
8 a.m.

Saturday April 21st  
Outdoor Nature Club  
Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary  
Feast Day  
Afternoon Scavenger Hunt

Saturday April 21st

WILLOW WATERHOLE SURVEY  
MONTHLY EVENT  
THIRD SATURDAY

Bird  
Banding at  
the refuge  
headquarters on  
Sat. 9-12noon &  
on Sun. 12-4

18th Annual Migration Celebration  
April 21st & 22nd  
San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge  
<http://migrationcelebration.org>

H.A.S. BIRDATHON 2012  
MARCH 24 TO MAY 6

IT'S TIME TO GET A TEAM TOGETHER  
reports and pledges due by May 9

**GALVESTON  
FeatherFest & Nature  
Photo Festival**

APRIL 12th - 15th

GALVESTON ISLAND,  
TEXAS

REGISTRATION  
OPEN NOW

[www.galvestonfeather  
festival.com](http://www.galvestonfeatherfestival.com)

**18th Annual  
Booming - N -  
Blooming**

APRIL 14th & 15th  
Attwater Prairie  
Chicken  
National Wildlife  
Refuge

Prairie Chicken  
Viewing Tours  
Bird & Native Plant  
Walks

Go to the website for  
important details  
[http://www.fws.gov/  
southwest/refuges/texas/  
attwater](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/refuges/texas/attwater)

**Balcones Songbird Nature Festival**

APRIL 27th - 30th  
REGISTRATION OPEN NOW  
TEXAS HILL COUNTRY  
CANYONLANDS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

<http://friendsofbalcones.org>

April 28th  
EDITH L. MOORE WORK DAY

**OG TRIP INFORMATION SHEET**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dates of trip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Trip City/Area** \_\_\_\_\_ **State/Terr.** \_\_\_\_\_ **Country** \_\_\_\_\_

**Was birding the main focus of your trip? Yes:** \_\_\_\_ **No:** \_\_\_\_

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**Accommodations:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Type:** (i.e., Hotel/B&B/Campground) \_\_\_\_\_ **Recommended?(y/n)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

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**Guides:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Recommended?(y/n)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:**

**Areas Birded / comments:**

**Species Highlights:**

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**Recommended Field Guide:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate Cost (optional):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional comments (continue on back):**

**May OG Members contact you about this trip? Yes:** \_\_\_\_ **No:** \_\_\_\_

**Contact information: (phone/email):** \_\_\_\_\_

States/Provinces Submitting the Most Checklists

Rank	State/Province	Checklists
1	<a href="#">New York</a>	6,519
2	<a href="#">California</a>	5,625
3	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	5,409
4	<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	5,110
5	<a href="#">Texas</a>	4,571
6	<a href="#">Ontario</a>	4,435
7	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	4,153
8	<a href="#">Ohio</a>	3,932
9	<a href="#">Florida</a>	3,861
10	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	3,780

States/Provinces

Reporting the Most Species

Rank	State/Province	Species
1	<a href="#">California</a>	332
2	<a href="#">Texas</a>	326
3	<a href="#">Florida</a>	277
4	<a href="#">Arizona</a>	238
5	<a href="#">Oregon</a>	205
6	<a href="#">Washington</a>	203
7	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	198
8	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	193
9	<a href="#">British Columbia</a>	190
9	<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	190

States/Provinces

Reporting the Most Birds

Rank	State/Province	Individuals
1	<a href="#">Florida</a>	3,677,083
2	<a href="#">Missouri</a>	2,184,004
3	<a href="#">Delaware</a>	1,399,608
4	<a href="#">California</a>	749,198
5	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	623,625
6	<a href="#">Texas</a>	596,863
7	<a href="#">Ohio</a>	519,977
8	<a href="#">New York</a>	499,870
9	<a href="#">Indiana</a>	420,922
10	<a href="#">Washington</a>	364,696

**TEXANS,  
 YOUR  
 BACKYARD  
 BIRD COUNT  
 DID US  
 PROUD!**



*Photo By Harlan Evans  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird  
 Brazos Bend State Park 9/28/11*

**Ornithology Group Houston Outdoor Nature Club**  
**Minutes of Meeting March 5, 2012**  
**Bayland Community Center**  
**Numbers of Attendees: 47**

**Learning Corner:**

OG Trip Information Collection: presented by Marcy Brown and Nina Rach. They have created a form and would like members to record where we go to birdwatch, where we stayed, trip costs, guide costs, and other helpful information or details to share with OG.

Places mentioned where members have enjoyed birdwatching:

SparrowFest and SongBird Fest - Balcones

Rattlesnake Springs, near Carlsbad Caverns, NM in July

Bitter Lake NWR, near Roswell, NM

Perdenales Falls State Park

South Llano River State Park

Southern Arizona

New York City, Central Park is a migrant trap; also Jamaica Bay in NYC

Hong Kong

Fite Ranch, NM

Sandia Peak above Albuquerque, NM (for the Rosy Finches)

Use the internet to find the local Audubon Society and other clues for information about where to birdwatch in areas you plan to travel.

**Sightings:** White-winged Scoters, Black Scoters, and a Ferruginous Hawk at Anahuac; Northern Parula; Black-and-white Warbler at Corps Woods & Kleb Woods; Brown Creeper in Memorial area; Mallard/Gadwall mix; Rufous, Calliope, Black-chinned and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds; Green-tailed Towhee at Addicks Reservoir; House Finches; Dark-eyed Junco; and 2 White-throated Sparrows; Falcated Duck at Colusa NWR north & west of Sacramento; Harris's Sparrow; Hermit Thrush; Summer Tanager at Brazos Bend State Park; Ed Robinson saw over 100 colorful species in Nepal.

**Minutes:** No additions.

**Library:** No news.

**Treasurer's Report:** Harlan Evans reported \$8,634 in the treasury.

**Membership:** Dues are due for 2012, Dues are paid yearly in January. Please sign in for the meetings, this accounting is reported to the Bayland Community Center to justify getting the large meeting room.

**The Spoonbill:** Vicki Sims thanked the people who volunteered to edit—Ryan Ubias, Mary Fitzgerald, and Joanna Friesen. Submissions to The Spoonbill are due on the tenth of March.

**Announcements:** OG members, Jennifer Backo, Paul Downey, Vicki Sims, and Marcy Brown spent Saturday speaking with children at Nature Fest at Jesse Jones Park. Marcy Brown wants to know about good speakers. Vicki Sims has Xeroxed medical forms if anyone wants one. She said that it would be good to have one when one goes on a birding trip, in case something happens. Two work days are scheduled. March 10<sup>th</sup>, HAS at High Island. March 11<sup>th</sup>, TOS @ High Island.

**Past Field Trips:** No report. Adam Wood was not in attendance.

**Future Field Trips:** March 17, 2012 is the date for the field trip to Formosa Wetlands on 172 between Ganado & Hwy 35. Need a leader volunteer.

## **Program: The Smith Point Hawk Watch: 15 Years of Monitoring and Outreach**

Presented by **Susan Heath**, Avian Conservation Biologist, GCBO.

Susan mentioned that there is a Spring Fling in Quintana during the entire month of April. There will be a volunteer stationed at Quintana throughout the day. Spring migrant birding can be better in the afternoon, since birds leave the Yucatan in the evening and it takes them 18 hours to cross the water.

Candy Abshier WMA was established in 1990. It is the only WMA with no hunting. The Smith Point Hawk Watch became an all volunteer effort in 1992. The current tower was built in 1995. 2011 marked the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the full time hawk count.

The US largest hawk flights take place in Corpus Christi, Texas. Veracruz, Mexico has the world's largest flights. In September and October, the hawk flights are phenomenal.

Raptors use mountain ranges to provide lift by riding the winds as they are deflected upwards. Since our area doesn't have mountains, the hawks use thermal updrafts for lift. Raptors ride these updrafts until they dissipate. Then, they glide down and catch another updraft.

Birds circle or funnel at Smith Point trying to figure out what to do. The hawks do not want to fly over open stretches of water. The same thing (funnel) happens at Cape May, NJ. Late September, with a cold front, is a good day to go watch the hawks at Smith Point. The Highest Count was 115,316 in 2001. The Lowest Count was 24,808 in 2010, excluding the year when the count was cancelled due to Hurricane Ike. The average season diversity of birds is 21 species. The average season total is about 52,000 raptors. Smith Point ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in the U.S. and Canada for the average number of birds per season.

The following is the migration magnitude for selected sites in the Fall:

4,477,057 in Veracruz, Mexico  
59,237 in Smith Point, Texas  
731,941 in Corpus Christi, Texas

Smith Point is one of only four Fall Gulf Coast hawk watch sites. It is one of only two U.S. sites that get significant numbers of Mississippi Kites. Smith Point has the highest average of Swallow-tailed Kites.

When and what time of the day is the best time to go to Smith Point?

Go September 24 to September 28, especially if there's a cold front. The daily migration rhythm for accipiters and small falcons is 8am to 9am. The best time to see Broad-winged Hawks is between 10:30am and 1:30pm.

(The best time to go to Veracruz, Mexico is September 26 to September 30.)

Special birds seen at Smith Point are:

Dark Broad-winged Hawk (2011); Ferruginous Hawk (2011); Hook-billed Kite (2011); Golden Eagle (2010).

Volunteers at Smith Point Fall Hawk Watch for 2011 were Jason Bojczyk; Winnie Burkett; Tad Finnell; Joe Kennedy; Cliff Peterson; David Sarkozi; Bill Saulmon; and Dan Smith.

Volunteers would be appreciated for next Fall.

**GCBO is very appreciative of the help they have received to date. In addition to hawk counters they have had help with a trailer, a port-a-potty, and Ike cleanup. Pictures in Susan's collection showed how drastic the area looked after the Ike storm, and what the gulf coast will endure this year is still to be felt.**

**A 2012 corporate sponsor is desperately needed for funding. It costs \$15,000 per year for two paid counters. The Smith Point Hawk watch collects a lot of valuable data and it would be a shame to lose this wonderful citizen science opportunity to assist the GCBO, please consider volunteering this year.**

***Marie Asscherick/Ornithology Group Secretary***



# Clearing House February 2012

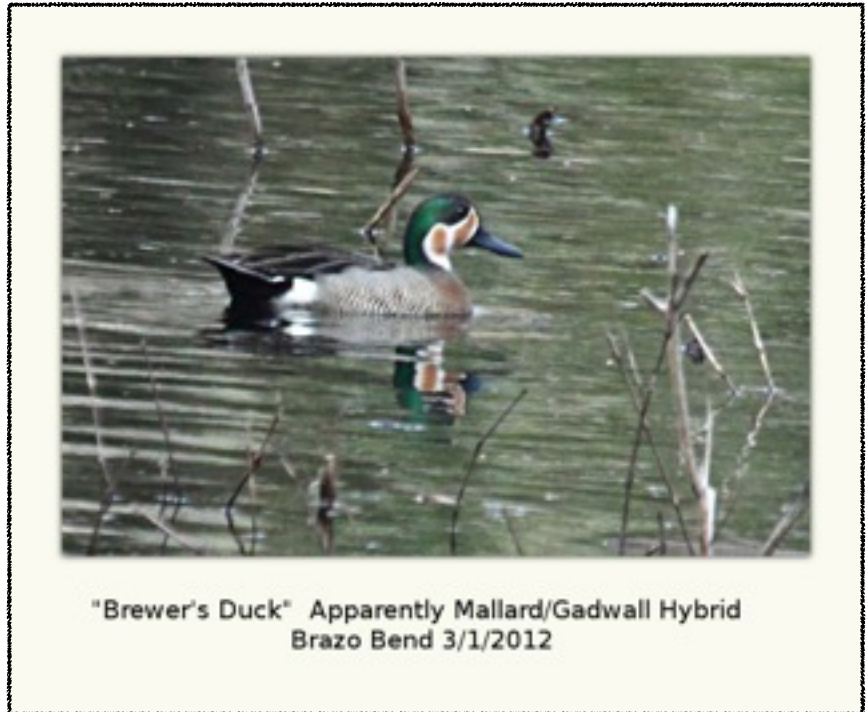
David Sarkozi

[david@sarkozi.net](mailto:david@sarkozi.net)

713-412-4409

This is a summary of birds reported to eBird.org. Rare and very rare birds are in bold. There were 282 species reported for the Upper Texas Coast (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Jefferson Counties) for September 2011 from 1166 checklists from 169 observers. Rare and very rare are listed in this format: County:location(date)[Observer]

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck reports=81 total= 804  
Swan Goose (Domestic type) reports=4 total= 6  
Greater White-fronted Goose reports=24 total= 559  
Graylag Goose (Domestic type) reports=3 total= 2  
Snow Goose reports=34 total= 1,730  
Ross's Goose reports=9 total= 10  
Cackling Goose reports=3 total= 25  
Canada Goose reports=2 total= 3  
goose sp. reports=2 total= 0  
Muscovy Duck (Domestic type) reports=23 total= 114  
Wood Duck reports=40 total= 56  
Gadwall reports=197 total= 950  
American Wigeon reports=61 total= 88  
Mallard reports=61 total= 120  
Mallard (Domestic type) reports=31 total= 74  
Mottled Duck reports=95 total= 111  
Blue-winged Teal reports=141 total= 1,419  
Cinnamon Teal reports=19 total= 20  
Northern Shoveler reports=134 total= 3,270  
Green-winged Teal reports=108 total= 1,342  
Canvasback reports=35 total= 364  
Redhead reports=60 total= 1,731  
Ring-necked Duck reports=114 total= 1,835  
Greater Scaup reports=11 total= 10  
Lesser Scaup reports=38 total= 285  
Greater/Lesser Scaup reports=3 total= 92  
Surf Scoter reports=2 total= 20  
Bufflehead reports=21 total= 101  
Common Goldeneye reports=18 total= 34  
*Hooded Merganser reports=39 total= 33*  
Red-breasted Merganser reports=49 total= 109  
merganser sp. reports=1 total= 12  
Ruddy Duck reports=48 total= 665  
duck sp. reports=7 total= 67  
Helmeted Guineafowl (Domestic type) reports=1 total= 6  
Northern Bobwhite reports=2 total= 16  
Indian Peafowl (Domestic type) reports=1 total= 4  
Wild Turkey reports=1 total= 1 Harris:GC3BB87(20)[Steven Berenzweig]  
**Pacific Loon reports=1 total= 2 Galveston:Galveston- Offatts Bayou (UTC 065)(2)[Vicki Crutchfield],**  
**Galveston:Galveston- Offatts Bayou (UTC 065)(22)[Vicki Crutchfield]**  
Common Loon reports=34 total= 187  
**Least Grebe reports=8 total= 10 Chambers:Anahuac NWR--Skillern Tract (E.Bay)(UTC 050)(11)[Andy Jordan],**  
**Chambers:Anahuac NWR--Skillern Tract (E.Bay)(UTC 050)(19)[Colin Huggett], Chambers:Anahuac NWR--Skillern**  
**Tract (E.Bay)(UTC 050)(19)[Alan Gutsell], Chambers:Anahuac NWR--Skillern Tract (E.Bay)(UTC 050)(20)[Dwayne**  
**Litteer], Harris:Bauer-Becker Pond(1)[Sue Orwig], Harris:Bauer-Becker pond on US 290(1)[Nina Rach],**  
**Jefferson:Tyrrell Park (UTC 019)(9)[Mike Rogan], Jefferson:Tyrrell Park--Cattail Marsh(11)[Steve Mayes],**  
Pied-billed Grebe reports=254 total= 93  
Horned Grebe reports=7 total= 25  
Eared Grebe reports=6 total= 7  
Northern Gannet reports=3 total= 12  
Neotropic Cormorant reports=166 total= 154  
Double-crested Cormorant reports=205 total= 256  
cormorant sp. reports=20 total= 104



"Brewer's Duck" Apparently Mallard/Gadwall Hybrid  
Brazo Bend 3/1/2012

*Photo By Harlan Evans*

Anhinga reports=33 total= 26  
 American White Pelican reports=82 total= 378  
 Brown Pelican reports=141 total= 285  
 Great Blue Heron reports=299 total= 103  
 Great Egret reports=340 total= 128  
 Snowy Egret reports=253 total= 167  
 Little Blue Heron reports=70 total= 32  
 Tricolored Heron reports=49 total= 16  
 Reddish Egret reports=32 total= 16  
 Cattle Egret reports=23 total= 53  
 Green Heron reports=7 total= 4  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron reports=47 total= 976  
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reports=14 total= 29  
 White Ibis reports=182 total= 611  
 Glossy Ibis reports=1 total= 1  
 White-faced Ibis reports=53 total= 1,115  
 Plegadis sp. reports=5 total= 50  
 Roseate Spoonbill reports=101 total= 157  
 Black Vulture reports=236 total= 506  
 Turkey Vulture reports=293 total= 426  
 Osprey reports=104 total= 26



**Swallow-tailed Kite reports=6 total= 2 Brazoria:San Bernard NWR (UTC 125)(28)[Mark Meyer], Brazoria:San Bernard NWR (UTC 125)(28)[Gordon White], Brazoria:San Bernard NWR (UTC 125)(28)[Nina Rach], Brazoria:San Bernard NWR (UTC 125)(28)[Marie Asscherick], Brazoria:San Bernard NWR (UTC 125)(28)[Judy Behrens], Brazoria:san bernard(28) [JoAnn Raine], Brazoria:san bernard national wildlife refuge(28)[vicki sims]**

White-tailed Kite reports=61 total= 27  
 Bald Eagle reports=30 total= 8  
 Northern Harrier reports=200 total= 36  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk reports=24 total= 7  
 Cooper's Hawk reports=72 total= 9  
 Accipiter sp. reports=3 total= 3  
 Red-shouldered Hawk reports=152 total= 20  
 White-tailed Hawk reports=19 total= 10  
 Red-tailed Hawk reports=310 total= 162

**Ferruginous Hawk reports=1 total= 1 Chambers:Anahuac(24)[Jennifer Backo], Chambers:TEXAS, FM 1985 to Anahuac(28)[Allen Chartier]**

Golden Eagle reports=1 total= 1  
 Crested Caracara reports=91 total= 25  
 American Kestrel reports=233 total= 116  
 Merlin reports=14 total= 6  
 Peregrine Falcon reports=16 total= 8  
 Clapper Rail reports=4 total= 6  
 King Rail reports=3 total= 2  
 Virginia Rail reports=7 total= 3  
 Sora reports=2 total= 1  
 Common Gallinule reports=32 total= 72  
 American Coot reports=255 total= 4,100  
 Sandhill Crane reports=62 total= 469  
 Black-bellied Plover reports=49 total= 72  
 Snowy Plover reports=15 total= 68

**Wilson's Plover reports=8 total= 3 Brazoria:Quintana Island(4)[Tom Morris], Galveston:Rollover Pass (UTC 056)(11)[Tripp Davenport], Galveston:Rollover Pass (UTC 056)(15)[Scott Buckel], Galveston:Rollover Pass (UTC 056)(22)[duke liebler], Galveston:Rollover Pass (UTC 056)(22)[duke liebler], Galveston:San Luis Pass (Galveston Co.)(UTC 071)(11) [Howard Smith], Galveston:east end galveston to west end(13)[duke liebler], Galveston:end of seawall to state park(7)[duke liebler], Galveston:high island to state park(20)[duke liebler]**

Semipalmated Plover reports=23 total= 61  
 Piping Plover reports=13 total= 21  
 Killdeer reports=217 total= 287  
 American Oystercatcher reports=13 total= 61  
 Black-necked Stilt reports=39 total= 115  
 American Avocet reports=19 total= 6,815  
 Spotted Sandpiper reports=23 total= 32

**Solitary Sandpiper reports=12 total= 3 Brazoria:Brazos River County Park (UTC 116)(11)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:Brazos River County Park (UTC 116)(12)[Joe Fischer], Chambers:Trinity River Island Rec Area (Chambers Co.)(19)[A.D. Moyer], Harris:Camp(7)[A.D. Moyer], Harris:Camp(14)[A.D. Moyer], Harris:Kleb Woods Nature Preserve(1)[Kendra Kocab], Harris:Kleb Woods Nature Preserve(1)[Fred Collins], Harris:Kleb Woods Nature Preserve(1)[michael kuzio], Harris:Kleb Woods Nature Preserve(1)[sarah kuzio], Harris:Kleb Woods Nature Preserve(1)[Karl Poetzl], Harris:Kleb**

**Woods Nature Preserve(1)[G. Fred Collins], Harris:Kleb Woods Nature Preserve(1)[Nina Rach], Harris:Kleb Woods Nature Preserve(1)[Sue Orwig]**  
 Greater Yellowlegs reports=94 total= 66  
 Willet reports=94 total= 208  
 Lesser Yellowlegs reports=49 total= 87  
 Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs reports=1 total= 1  
**Whimbrel reports=1 total= 1 Galveston:Galveston Island SP- Overlook tower area(11)[Jennifer Burk]**  
 Long-billed Curlew reports=21 total= 99  
 Marbled Godwit reports=21 total= 122  
 Ruddy Turnstone reports=49 total= 79  
**Red Knot reports=2 total= 2 Galveston:San Luis Pass (Galveston Co.)(UTC 071)(11)[Howard Smith], Galveston:TEXAS, Bolivar Peninsula(28)[Allen Chartier]**  
 Sanderling reports=62 total= 248  
 Western Sandpiper reports=21 total= 53  
 Least Sandpiper reports=44 total= 298  
 Dunlin reports=30 total= 172  
 peep sp. reports=2 total= 4  
 Short-billed Dowitcher reports=18 total= 76  
 Long-billed Dowitcher reports=35 total= 172  
 Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher reports=6 total= 4  
 Wilson's Snipe reports=27 total= 32  
**American Woodcock reports=2 total= 1 Harris:Kleb Woods Nature Preserve(1)[michael kuzio], Harris:Kleb Woods Nature Preserve(1)[G. Fred Collins]**  
 Bonaparte's Gull reports=24 total= 173  
 Laughing Gull reports=259 total= 11,460  
**Franklin's Gull reports=2 total= 1 Harris:Bayland Pk / Goose Crk Mouth(5)[William Tarbox], Harris:Bayland Pk / Goose Crk Mouth(5)[Ellen Baker]**  
 Ring-billed Gull reports=220 total= 7,572  
 Herring Gull reports=90 total= 2,766  
**Thayer's Gull reports=4 total= 3 Brazoria:Brazoria NWR (UTC 108)(6)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:Follett's Island(1)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:Surfside Beach & Jetty (UTC 106)(5)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:Surfside Beach & Jetty (UTC 106)(22)[Ron Weeks]**  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull reports=23 total= 100  
**Glaucous Gull reports=2 total= 1 Brazoria:Seabreeze Landfill(3)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:Seabreeze Landfill(10)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:The Dump(10)[Joe Fischer]**  
 Gull-billed Tern reports=11 total= 22  
 Caspian Tern reports=48 total= 28  
 Common Tern reports=9 total= 24  
 Forster's Tern reports=104 total= 282  
 Royal Tern reports=60 total= 82  
 Sandwich Tern reports=3 total= 1  
 Black Skimmer reports=26 total= 401  
 Parasitic Jaeger reports=1 total= 1 Brazoria:Surfside Beach & Jetty (UTC 106)(5)[Ron Weeks]  
 Rock Pigeon reports=181 total= 703  
 Eurasian Collared-Dove reports=117 total= 88  
 White-winged Dove reports=279 total= 779  
 Mourning Dove reports=537 total= 341  
 Inca Dove reports=16 total= 27  
 Common Ground-Dove reports=7 total= 9  
 Monk Parakeet reports=20 total= 54  
**Greater Roadrunner reports=1 total= 1 Fort Bend:Riverpark (Sugar Land)(9)[Mark Scheuerman], Fort Bend:Riverpark (Sugar Land)(10)[Mark Scheuerman], Harris:Orwig Home(28)[susan orwig], Harris:Orwig Home(29)[susan orwig], Harris:Orwig Home(30)[susan orwig]**  
 Barn Owl reports=3 total= 3  
 Eastern Screech-Owl reports=7 total= 6  
 Great Horned Owl reports=34 total= 12  
 Barred Owl reports=12 total= 7  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird reports=32 total= 6  
 Black-chinned Hummingbird reports=13 total= 6  
 Anna's Hummingbird reports=2 total= 1  
 Broad-tailed Hummingbird reports=39 total= 16  
 Rufous Hummingbird reports=95 total= 31  
 Allen's Hummingbird reports=15 total= 11  
 Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird reports=10 total= 12  
 Calliope Hummingbird reports=35 total= 9  
 Buff-bellied Hummingbird reports=27 total= 6  
 hummingbird sp. reports=4 total= 3



Belted Kingfisher reports=137 total= 29  
 Red-headed Woodpecker reports=6 total= 7  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker reports=326 total= 45  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports=82 total= 13  
 Downy Woodpecker reports=274 total= 38  
 Northern Flicker reports=74 total= 18  
 Pileated Woodpecker reports=94 total= 17  
 Least Flycatcher reports=3 total= 3  
 Eastern Phoebe reports=253 total= 46  
**Say's Phoebe reports=15 total= 5 Brazoria:San Bernard NWR (UTC 125)(28)[Marie Asscherick], Brazoria:San Bernard NWR (UTC 125)(28)[Nina Rach], Brazoria:San Bernard NWR (UTC 125)(28)[Gordon White], Brazoria:San Bernard NWR (UTC 125)(28)[Mark Meyer], Brazoria:San Bernard NWR (UTC 125)(28)[Judy Behrens], Brazoria:San Bernard NWR--Hudson Woods Unit (W. of Angleton)(11)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:san bernard(28)[JoAnn Raine], Chambers:Anahuac NWR (UTC 049)(26)[Margaret Farese], Chambers:Anahuac NWR (UTC 049)(26)[Frank Farese], Harris:El Franco Lee Park(6)[Dan Pancamo], Harris:El Franco Lee Park(9)[J. C. Stormer], Harris:El Franco Lee Park(11)[Judy Behrens], Harris:El Franco Lee Park(19)[Steven Berenzweig], Harris:Houston- Hall Rd. Ponds(2)[Teri Zambon], Harris:Retention basin off BW 8(2)[Sue Orwig]**  
 Vermilion Flycatcher reports=27 total= 12  
 Ash-throated Flycatcher reports=6 total= 7  
**Great Kiskadee reports=10 total= 4 Harris:Sheldon Lake SP (UTC 033)(6)[Teri Zambon], Harris:Sheldon Lake SP (UTC 033)(8)[Nina Rach], Harris:Sheldon Lake SP (UTC 033)(8)[Sue Orwig], Harris:Sheldon Lake SP (UTC 033)(14)[Teri Zambon], Harris:Sheldon Lake SP (UTC 033)(14)[Greg Page], Harris:Sheldon Lake SP (UTC 033)(19)[michael kuzio], Harris:Sheldon Lake SP (UTC 033)(19)[sarah kuzio], Harris:Sheldon Lake SP (UTC 033)(19)[Jeff Mohamed], Harris:Sheldon Lake SP (UTC 033)(19)[Marcus Wheeler], Harris:Sheldon Lake SP (UTC 033)(24)[Jeanine Tumbleson]**  
**Tropical Kingbird reports=1 total= 2 Galveston:Pelican Island- TAMUG Wetland Ctr.(29)[Scott Buckel]**  
**Couch's Kingbird reports=1 total= 1 Fort Bend:Cullinan Park (UTC 095)(6)[Marcus Wheeler]**  
 flycatcher sp. reports=1 total= 1  
 Loggerhead Shrike reports=291 total= 66  
 White-eyed Vireo reports=5 total= 4  
 Blue-headed Vireo reports=16 total= 6  
 Warbling Vireo reports=1 total= 1 Fort Bend:Cullinan Park (UTC 095)(6)[Marcus Wheeler]  
 Blue Jay reports=348 total= 78  
 American Crow reports=282 total= 89  
 Fish Crow reports=9 total= 36  
 crow sp. reports=1 total= 6  
 Horned Lark reports=15 total= 18  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow reports=4 total= 30  
 Purple Martin reports=98 total= 47  
 Tree Swallow reports=45 total= 203  
 Barn Swallow reports=16 total= 8  
 Cave Swallow reports=20 total= 83  
 Cliff/Cave Swallow reports=1 total= 5  
 swallow sp. reports=3 total= 42  
 Carolina Chickadee reports=363 total= 103  
 Tufted Titmouse reports=148 total= 36  
**White-breasted Nuthatch reports=7 total= 5 Harris:Spring Crk Park (Harris Co.)(19)[Greg Page], Harris:Spring Crk Park (Harris Co.)(22)[Kendra Kocab], Harris:Spring Crk Park (Harris Co.)(22)[michael kuzio], Harris:Spring Crk Park (Harris Co.)(22)[sarah kuzio], Harris:Spring Crk Park (Harris Co.)(25)[Janet Rathjen], Harris:Spring Crk Park (Harris Co.)(26)[Ken Hartman], Harris:Spring Crk Park (Harris Co.)(26)[Tony Frank]**  
 Brown-headed Nuthatch reports=16 total= 16  
 Brown Creeper reports=45 total= 18  
 Carolina Wren reports=247 total= 48  
**Bewick's Wren reports=3 total= 2 Fort Bend:Cullinan Park (UTC 095)(18)[Bernd Gravenstein], Fort Bend:brazos bend state park(20)[duke liebler], Harris:Katy Prairie--Longenbaugh / Porter Rd. (UTC 098)(22)[Sue Orwig], Harris:Katy Prairie--Longenbaugh / Porter Rd. (UTC 098)(22)[Nina Rach]**  
 House Wren reports=54 total= 19  
 Winter Wren reports=3 total= 3  
 Sedge Wren reports=12 total= 12  
 Marsh Wren reports=28 total= 16  
 wren sp. reports=1 total= 1  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports=56 total= 35  
 Red-vented Bulbul reports=4 total= 8  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet reports=32 total= 18  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet reports=284 total= 42  
 Eastern Bluebird reports=146 total= 88  
 Hermit Thrush reports=70 total= 17  
 American Robin reports=285 total= 845



Gray Catbird reports=5 total= 3  
 Northern Mockingbird reports=610 total= 89  
 Brown Thrasher reports=41 total= 11  
 European Starling reports=356 total= 820  
 American Pipit reports=69 total= 341  
 Sprague's Pipit reports=5 total= 17  
 Cedar Waxwing reports=136 total= 930  
 Black-and-white Warbler reports=4 total= 5  
 Orange-crowned Warbler reports=225 total= 28  
 Nashville Warbler reports=1 total= 2  
 Common Yellowthroat reports=41 total= 49  
**Tropical Parula reports=1 total= 1 Brazoria:Brazoria(17)[Ron Weeks]**  
**Yellow Warbler reports=1 total= 1 Harris:Houston- Arthur Storey Park(19)[Nina Rach]**  
 Palm Warbler reports=9 total= 7 Harris  
 Pine Warbler reports=161 total= 73 Harris  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler reports=418 total= 197  
 Wilson's Warbler reports=34 total= 6  
 warbler sp. reports=1 total= 5  
**Green-tailed Towhee reports=16 total= 6 Brazoria:Damon Area (incl CR 4 & CR10)(25)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:Damon CR 4(10)[Brad Lirette], Brazoria:Quintana Xeriscape Park(12)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:Quintana Xeriscape Park(15)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:San Bernard NWR--Hudson Woods Unit (W. of Angleton)(11)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:Surfside Beach & Jetty (UTC 106)(4)[Ron Weeks], Fort Bend:brazos bend state park(20)[duke liebler], Galveston:Stewart Rd & Spanish Grant(21)[Richard Peake], Galveston:east end galveston to west end(13)[duke liebler], Galveston:state park(21)[duke liebler], Harris:Houston- Addicks Reservoir--S. Levee area(11)[Drew Dickert], Harris:Houston- Addicks Reservoir--S. Levee area(11)[Jim Hinson], Harris:Houston- Addicks Reservoir--S. Levee area(25)[Drew Dickert], Harris:Houston- Addicks Reservoir--S. Levee area(28)[Sue Orwig], Harris:Katy Prairie- Jack Road(26)[Tony Frank], Jefferson:Tyrrell Park (UTC 019)(11)[Steve Mayes]**  
**Spotted Towhee reports=9 total= 5 Brazoria:Damon Area (incl CR 4 & CR10)(25)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:Surfside Beach & Jetty (UTC 106)(6)[Ron Weeks], Galveston:east end galveston to west end(13)[duke liebler], Harris:Katy Prairie (Harris Co.)(12)[Bryan Tarbox], Harris:Katy Prairie (Harris Co.)(12)[William Tarbox], Harris:Katy Prairie (Harris Co.)(26)[Tony Frank], Harris:Little Cypress Crk Preserve (Harris Co.)(4)[Jeff Mohamed], Harris:Little Cypress Crk Preserve (Harris Co.)(11)[Nina Rach], Harris:Mound Creek Rd, (Harris Co.)(5)[Janet Rathjen]**  
 Eastern Towhee reports=1 total= 1  
**Rufous-crowned Sparrow reports=2 total= 1 Harris:Paul Sellin's house (7831 Rollingbrook)(2)[Ellen Baker], Harris:Paul Sellin's house (7831 Rollingbrook)(2)[William Tarbox]**  
 Chipping Sparrow reports=130 total= 231  
 Clay-colored Sparrow reports=6 total= 5  
 Field Sparrow reports=93 total= 80  
 Vesper Sparrow reports=39 total= 56  
 Lark Sparrow reports=1 total= 1  
**Lark Bunting reports=1 total= 1 Brazoria:Damon Area (incl CR 4 & CR10)(25)[Ron Weeks]**  
 Savannah Sparrow reports=239 total= 349  
**Grasshopper Sparrow reports=18 total= 20 Harris:El Franco Lee Park(18)[John O'Brien], Harris:Houston- Addicks Reservoir--N. of Clay Rd.(5)[Jim Hinson], Harris:Kleb Woods Nature Preserve(28)[Fred Collins]**  
**Henslow's Sparrow reports=1 total= 1 Harris:Katy Prairie- Paul Rushing/Chain of Lakes Park(18)[Greg Page], Harris:Katy Prairie- Paul Rushing/Chain of Lakes Park(19)[Ben Van Allen]**  
 Le Conte's Sparrow reports=10 total= 10  
 Nelson's Sparrow reports=5 total= 5  
 Seaside Sparrow reports=10 total= 23  
 Fox Sparrow reports=2 total= 2  
 Song Sparrow reports=70 total= 39  
 Lincoln's Sparrow reports=44 total= 26  
 Swamp Sparrow reports=56 total= 49  
 White-throated Sparrow reports=167 total= 106  
 Harris's Sparrow reports=51 total= 167  
 White-crowned Sparrow reports=57 total= 126  
 Dark-eyed Junco reports=24 total= 60  
 sparrow sp. reports=6 total= 44  
**Western Tanager reports=1 total= 1 Brazoria:Brazoria(17)[Ron Weeks]**  
 Northern Cardinal reports=522 total= 263  
**Pyrrhuloxia reports=2 total= 4 Harris:Katy Prairie- Jack Road(26)[Tony Frank], Harris:Katy Prairie--Longenbaugh / Porter Rd. (UTC 098)(5)[Ben Van Allen]**  
**Blue Grosbeak reports=1 total= 1 Brazoria:Surfside Beach & Jetty (UTC 106)(9)[Ron Weeks]**  
 Red-winged Blackbird reports=350 total= 1,684  
 Eastern Meadowlark reports=149 total= 247  
 Western Meadowlark reports=8 total= 19  
 meadowlark sp. reports=14 total= 162

**Yellow-headed Blackbird reports=2 total= 3 Brazoria:Seabreeze Landfill(3)[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:Seabreeze Landfill(10)**  
**[Ron Weeks], Brazoria:The Dump(10)[Joe Fischer]**  
 Rusty Blackbird reports=6 total= 40  
 Brewer's Blackbird reports=36 total= 363  
 Common Grackle reports=127 total= 1,595  
 Boat-tailed Grackle reports=66 total= 507  
 Great-tailed Grackle reports=307 total= 1,297  
 Boat-tailed/Great-tailed Grackle reports=1 total= 0  
 grackle sp. reports=1 total= 2  
 Bronzed Cowbird reports=6 total= 17  
 Brown-headed Cowbird reports=199 total= 436  
**Bullock's Oriole reports=1 total= 1 Galveston:Stewart Rd & Spanish Grant(21)[Richard Peake]**  
 blackbird sp. reports=7 total= 300  
 House Finch reports=131 total= 76  
 Pine Siskin reports=4 total= 3  
**Lesser Goldfinch reports=3 total= 2 Galveston:corps woods(16)[duke liebler], Galveston:east end galveston to west**  
**end(13)[duke liebler], Galveston:high island to state park(20)[duke liebler]**  
 American Goldfinch reports= total=  
 House Sparrow reports= total=  
 Orange Bishop reports= total=  
 Nutmeg Mannikin reports= total=

## About the Ornithology Group

The Ornithology Group (OG) is a division of the Outdoor Nature Club (ONC), a non-profit organization dedicated to greater knowledge about the environment and wildlife of the Upper Texas Coast. The OG is a club of individuals interested in all aspects of birding, including bird identification, listing bird sightings, competing in birding events, and preserving bird habitat. Some members study bird behavior, biology, distribution and migration, while others just enjoy watching birds. The organization is designed to accommodate these diverse birding interests. Monthly meetings and field trips provide an opportunity to interact with and learn from experts in local and international birding.

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OG website: <http://www.ornithologygroup.org/>  
 ONC website: <http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/>

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Common Yellowthroat, Hermann Park 10/10/11