



# The Spoonbill

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

March 2007  
Vol. 56 No. 3

## March Meeting

**Monday, March 5, 2007 -- 7:00 p.m.**

Bayland Community Center  
6400 Bissonnet, Houston

**6:30 -- Learning Corner** with **David Bradford**

**Program: The Great Texas Birding Classic**  
by **Carol Jones**

The program for March 5 will be an overview of the Great Texas Birding Classic -- its purpose, how it is organized, and the accomplishments over the first 10 years, including \$505,000 raised and donated to habitat conservation along the Texas coast. This year's Great Texas Birding Classic will take place April 15-22, and will allow teams to compete in birding and fundraising in the Upper, Central, and Lower Texas Coast areas.

Our speaker, Carol A. Jones, is the Education Program Manager for the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. This will be the third year that Carol has coordinated the Great Texas Birding Classic. After a rewarding career in corporate America, Carol came to GCBO with significant experience in customer relationship building and facilitating agreements between groups with varying needs. A birder and nature enthusiast all her adult life, she has spent many hours participating in volunteer activities for habitat conservation and environmental awareness and monitoring. Carol has a BA in Zoology from the University of Texas at Austin.

## Other Events

**March 14: Midweek Trip** -- Jesse Jones Park, with Skip Almoney

**March 17: Bolivar and Texas City Dike**  
Monthly OG trip, with Adam Wood

April 9-30: HAS Birdathon (see p. 7)

April 12-14: TOS Conference in San Antonio

April 21: Spring Migration Trip:  
Sabine, TX with Steve Mays  
(Sabine Woods, McFaddin NWR, the Willows at Sea Rim)

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## Minutes of the February 5, 2007 Meeting

Bayland Community Center

Attendance: 70

1. **Learning Corner:** David Bradford gave part 2 of a talk on sparrows, with a useful handout. Kathy Farr also provided a very handy reference sheet on sparrow ID that was put together by a friend of hers.
2. Michael Williams opened the meeting at about 7 p.m. with **bird sightings**. Sora, Wilson's Warbler and Least Grebe were seen at Brazos Bend State Park. Maryanne Beauchemin reported several Rufous Hummingbirds and a Black-chinned at Russ Pitman Park. At another location, a Red-tailed Hawk was seen preying on a Robin, and on a TOS field trip Kathy Farr saw a Northern Shrike dining on a Yellow-rumped Warbler. Adam Wood saw Great Black-backed Gulls, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, a second-winter Slaty-backed Gull and two Limpkins on his recent trip to Florida. Cinnamon Teal, Redhead and other ducks continue at the Hermann Park lagoon.
3. **Minutes** of the January meeting were accepted as printed in the Spoonbill.
4. Margret Simmons reminded people to **renew their memberships**.
5. Michael encouraged people to consider serving as **officers**. Election will be in April.
6. **Spoonbill:** Submission deadline for next issue is Feb. 10. Many people did not receive their copy yet.
7. **Library:** Andy and the library won't be at the next meeting.
8. **Field Trips:** The Brazos Bend State Park trip was successful, with 80 species, including Least Grebes, Merlin, Bald Eagles, Roseate Spoonbills, and (pending acceptance by the TBRC) Cliff Swallow. The trip to northeast Texas was also good, with about 110 species, including Northern Shrike, White-winged Scoter and 14 sparrow species. Michael announced the upcoming Feb. 14 mid-week field trip to Russ Pitman Park. Adam noted that up to 16 people can now go on the special Lake Houston trip for Henslow's Sparrow on Feb. 10, and that two spaces are left. Feb. 17 is the monthly trip, which is to Texas City Prairie Preserve, to see Attwater's Prairie Chickens on their lek; one out of 10 spaces remain. Please bring a scope if you have one.
9. **Program:** Bernice introduced the speaker, John Coffman, a scientist and researcher working with The Peregrine Fund (TPF) to benefit the endangered Northern Aplomado Falcon. Besides the natural history of the bird and how to identify it to species, age, and sex, John talked about the efforts of TPF to reestablish this species in south Texas and elsewhere. TPF programs include captive breeding, release, and monitoring, on the model of TPF's past work for the Peregrine Falcon. The program was very informative and engaging.
10. **Meeting adjourned** about 8:30 p.m.

-- John Schneider

## 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.

Chair:	Michael Williams	713-228-9064
Vice-Chair:	Bernice Hotman	713-782-7889
Secretary:	Shirley & Raymond Mondshine	713-774-1413
Treasurer:	Jim Winn	713-464-8057
Clearing House:	David Sarkozi	713-412-4409
Library:	Andy Scott	281-537-9690
Membership:	Margret Simmons	713-776-2511
Field Trips:	Adam Wood	713-515-1692

**The Spoonbill:** Al Shultz 281-829-0970  
Email: [og\\_spoonbill@earthlink.net](mailto:og_spoonbill@earthlink.net)

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

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

### 2007 DUES ARE DUE!!

Don't forget to renew your ONC/OG dues if you haven't already done so. ONC/OG dues are paid yearly on a calendar basis beginning January 1st. Life Members of ONC still need to pay yearly OG dues – to help pay for Spoonbill printing/ mailing expenses, speakers, OG donations to other organizations, and a few other OG expenses. Pay by check at the next OG meeting, or use the form on the back of *The Spoonbill* (it specifies the proper dues amounts) to submit updated information for the ONC Yearbook and database, along with your check.

For those who have not paid 2007 dues, this will be the last issue of *The Spoonbill*.

If you have questions about your membership status, contact Margret Simmons at [msimmons@compassnet.com](mailto:msimmons@compassnet.com) or 713-776-2511.

## **Bolivar Bird Survey and Texas City Dike Field Trip – Saturday, March 17, 2007**

*Meet at Bolivar Side Ferry Landing Parking Lot, 8:00 am*

This month's trip will be to Bolivar and the Texas City Dike. We will be assisting Tom Kihn with the monthly Bolivar bird survey for the first part of the trip. Then, we'll head over to the Texas City Dike if the ferry line is manageable, and if it is not we will go to Anahuac NWR for the afternoon.

If you want to contribute your birding experience and skills for the purchase and preservation of habitat on Bolivar - here's your chance. The last year-long survey of the flats was conducted in 1982. Dollars plus current bird data are needed to complete the campaign to preserve Bolivar habitat. Many eyes are needed to spot, identify and count the many birds using Bolivar habitat. We are conducting a monthly bird survey of the Bolivar peninsula to document the number of species and individuals that feed, rest and nest on the western end of Bolivar, from Rettilon Road to the ferry landing, including all land areas. The survey uses Christmas Bird Count protocol and volunteers, but at no cost (donations for Bolivar will, of course, be accepted).

You will be lead by Tom Kihn, or myself, depending on the area in the survey area where you prefer to bird. We will then all meet back up at around 11:00 at La Playita Mexican Restaurant for lunch (703 Madison, Pt. Bolivar). Then, if birds of note were seen, we will head back to those places as a group to try and re-find those birds and find any species missed during the survey. The main focus will be on shorebird identification on Bolivar Flats. However, we will also bird other areas along Bolivar in search of Whimbrel, Northern Gannet, and possibly Surf Scoter. After we are done birding Bolivar and depending on the ferry line, we will either bird Anahuac NWR or the Texas City Dike. If we bird the Texas City Dike we will be in search of Sprague's Pipits, Eared Grebe, Common Goldeneye, American Golden Plover, Upland Sandpiper, and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. If time allows we will go visit the hummingbird garden at Bay Street Park to see if there are any lingering overwintering hummingbirds. We may also scope out the lake for more waterfowl and the banks for sparrows.

Directions: We will meet at the ferry parking lot on Bolivar Peninsula at 8:00 a.m. To get there from Houston, go south on I-45 south into Galveston. In Galveston, I-45 becomes Broadway; take Broadway to where it dead-ends at the Gulf. Take a left at the light, and follow the signs to the ferry which will be your second left.

Be sure to bring: binoculars, a spotting scope, a warm coat or jacket in case it is cold or windy, a hat, sun block, camera, and water.

--Adam Wood, *OG Field Trip Coordinator* birdman\_570@yahoo.com 713-515-1692

### **March 2007 Mid-Week Field Trip: Jesse Jones Park and Nature Center**

Join us on Wednesday, March 14 for the OG mid-week field trip to the Jesse H. Jones Park and Nature Center. This 275-acre nature park is named after the late Jesse H. Jones, whose Houston Endowment Foundation Inc. contributed to the initial funding for the project. Jones Park documents the Native American and pioneer lifestyles commonly found along the banks of Cypress and Spring creeks during the late 1700s and early 1800s.

We will explore diverse ecosystems including ancient cypress bogs, natural white sand beaches and wildflower meadows as we bird-watch through 5 miles of trails. Enjoy the natural beauty and history combined in this unique setting located along the banks of Spring Creek.

The leader for this trip will be Skip Almoney. He will be in the parking lot near the nature center 8:00 a.m. and the trip will not last beyond 12 noon. To reach Jesse Jones Park, take US 59 North from Houston to FM 1960; exit onto FM 1960 heading west; go west on 1960 about 3 miles to Kenswick Dr. Turn right (North) onto Kenswick Dr. and follow it until it enters the park.

## 2006 Buffalo Bayou Christmas Bird Count

By preliminary reports, 123 species were seen on the Buffalo Bayou Christmas Bird Count on December 30, 2006. Notable species included Henslow's Sparrow, Black Phoebe, and for the third consecutive year, Vermilion Flycatcher. To obtain a summary of compiled data, please email Lbouffard@gmail.com

This count is special because it is mostly urban. Among other things, this gives us a chance to participate in documenting invasive species. Dispersion of invasives can be seen in our area with the arrival of the Budgerigar. A bird that has not appeared on the Buffalo Bayou Count but that will surely appear on the count in the future is the Red-vented Bulbul. Changes like these over time give conservation biologists tools for understanding bird populations.

--Lucien A. Bouffard

## Field Trip Reports

### Brazos Bend State Park -- January 20, 2007

Bill Godley, a park volunteer and leader of the regular monthly bird walks at Brazos Bend State Park, led 12 participants around 40 Acre Lake, Creekfield Lake and parts of Elm and Horseshoe Lakes as well as out to Davis Estates. We could have asked for better weather on this trip. We were fortunate to stay dry (albeit cold) in the morning; however, we weren't so lucky in the afternoon when the rains hit and bird activity diminished to almost nothing, forcing us to call the trip a bit short. In spite all this, we still saw some great birds.

We started out at 40 Acre Lake, where David Heinecke, the park naturalist, spotted a female Common Goldeneye on the far side of the lake. Other highlights were Black-crowned Night Herons, Roseate Spoonbills, two Vermilion Flycatchers, one Brown Creeper spotted by Claire Moore, Cave Swallows, one Cliff Swallow (a very rare winter resident and probably the bird of the trip), and one adult Bald Eagle that flew directly over us twice while we were walking around the lake. We were not able to locate the Northern Waterthrush or an American Bittern around 40 Acre Lake.

We then drove over to the nature center and Creekfield Lake to look for the Least Grebes. We had walked all the way to the farthest pier without finding them, and I couldn't believe that we were going to miss them on the trip when I heard Bill Godley yell

out "Least Grebe!" as he was headed off the pier and back towards the nature center. The Least Grebes were right beside the pier, affording us great looks and a great photo opportunity. All I can figure is that they must have been under the pier when we first walked up. The only other highlight at Creekfield was a Tricolored Heron.

The rains started as we drove to Elm Lake. We made an attempt for the Red-headed Woodpecker, but missed it and did not find anything new along the portions of Elm and Horseshoe Lake that we walked. We ended the day going for the Palm Warblers out near the landfill on Davis Estates Road. We got brief glimpses of five Palm Warblers, including one pretty yellow one.

We totaled about 80 birds for the trip; the list is included below. We probably could have done better if we had had better weather in the afternoon, but at least we didn't get rained on until the afternoon. I would like to thank Bill for doing an excellent job leading this trip and sharing his knowledge about Brazos Bend State Park and Davis Estates with us. It is truly a nice place to go and bird, and it is not that far from Houston. I would especially like to thank David Heinecke and Bill Tarbox for assisting with this trip. I would also like to thank everybody who participated in this trip and braved the cold morning and put up with the rain in the afternoon for a couple of hours.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck 15  
Snow Goose 150  
Ross's Goose 5  
Gadwall 6 (Davis Estates)  
Blue-winged Teal 6

Northern Pintail 45  
**Common Goldeneye** 1 (female, 40 Acre Lake)  
**Least Grebe** 2 (Creekfield Lake)  
Pied-billed Grebe 8

Neotropic Cormorant 2  
Double-crested Cormorant 4  
Great Blue Heron 2  
Great Egret 4  
Snowy Egret 3

Little Blue Heron 1 (Creekfield Lake)  
**Tricolored Heron** 1 (Creekfield Lake)  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron 5 (40 Acre Lake)  
 White Ibis 75  
 White-faced Ibis 1  
 Plegadis sp. 5  
**Roseate Spoonbill** 3 (40 Acre Lake)  
 Black Vulture 5  
 Turkey Vulture 10  
**Bald Eagle** 2 (40 Acre Lake)  
 Northern Harrier 2  
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 1  
 Cooper's Hawk 1  
 Red-shouldered Hawk 5  
**Red-tailed Hawk** 3  
 Crested Caracara 1 (Davis Estates)  
**Merlin** 1 (Davis Estates)  
 Common Moorhen 50  
 American Coot 200  
 Killdeer 3  
 Least Sandpiper 40 (40 Acre Lake)  
 Ring-billed Gull 1 (Davis Estates)  
 Mourning Dove 4 (Davis Estates)

Red-bellied Woodpecker 3  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 3  
 Downy Woodpecker 2  
 Pileated Woodpecker 2 (Heard)  
 Eastern Phoebe 6  
**Vermilion Flycatcher** 3 (2-40 Acre Lake, 1-Elm Lake)  
 Blue-headed Vireo 3  
 American Crow 15  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow 3 (40 Acre Lake)  
**Cliff Swallow** 1 (40 Acre Lake) (Pending acceptance by the TBRC)  
**Cave Swallow** 20 (40 Acre Lake)  
 Carolina Chickadee 3  
 Tufted Titmouse 2  
**Brown Creeper** 1 (40 Acre Lake)  
 Carolina Wren 3  
**Golden-crowned Kinglet** 5  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet 25  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 2  
 Eastern Bluebird 5  
 American Robin 50  
 Hermit Thrush 1

**Gray Catbird** 2  
 Northern Mockingbird 5  
 European Starling 6 (Davis Estates)  
 American Pipit 8  
**Sprague's Pipit** 2 (Davis Estates)  
 Orange-crowned Warbler 3  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 20  
 Pine Warbler 2  
**Palm Warbler** 6 (Davis Estates)  
 Common Yellowthroat 3  
 Field Sparrow 4  
**Savannah Sparrow** 4  
 Song Sparrow 1  
 Lincoln's Sparrow 2  
 Swamp Sparrow 5  
 White-throated Sparrow 5  
 Northern Cardinal 6  
 Red-winged Blackbird 50  
 Eastern Meadowlark 1 (Davis Estates)  
 Common Grackle 100 (Elm Lake)  
 Boat-tailed Grackle 5  
 Great-tailed Grackle 1 (40 Acre Lake)  
 American Goldfinch 50

Birds in bold were target birds or good birds for the park. Birds in bold and italicized are rare birds for the season on the Upper Texas Coast or for the park.

-- Adam Wood

## Russ Pittman Park February 2007 Mid-week Field Trip Report

The OG Field Trip to Russ Pittman Park in Bellaire was held on February 14, 2007. A group of ten hardy souls showed up on a crisp, clear morning to bird. One of the group was Sheri Williamson, author of the Peterson Series Field Guide for Hummingbirds. Sheri's insights were very helpful as we watched three Rufous Hummingbirds during the morning. When the sun came out and it warmed up, the birds, including the hummers, became more active and gave us some wonderful views.

We were greeted by a Cooper's Hawk as we gathered in the parking lot, and later in the morning we saw two Red-tailed Hawks, one with a pigeon in its talons. Other species for the day included all the usual suspects one expects in a city park, including Blue Jays, Mockingbirds, Doves (Rock, White-winged, Mourning, and Eurasian Collared), American Robins (in large numbers), a beautiful brilliant yellow Pine Warbler, several Orange-crowned Warblers (with varying amounts of yellow below), molting Yellow-rumped Warblers, a few American Goldfinches, one House Finch and lots of blackbirds (mostly Brown-headed Cowbirds). In addition, we saw Downy and Red-bellied Woodpeckers along with the expected Chickadees, Northern Cardinals and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. One of the Ruby-crowned Kinglets seemed to be feeding at one of the many hummingbird feeders and he caused great commotion from the resident female Rufous Hummingbird who claimed the feeder as her own.

We tried unsuccessfully to find the bee-eating Summer Tanager and the Brown Creeper that have spent the winter in the Park. Our final tally was 21 species. --Skip Almoncy

### HELP ME PASS THE WORD....

My husband's work is taking us to live in England for a year or two, beginning the end of September. I have two cats that are unable to make the journey, and need new homes. I am telling everyone I know, hoping that someone will know someone able to help me. My "Old Man" cat is 20 years old and needs a lot of TLC and canned food 6 - 8 times/day (he has lost all his teeth). My "Little Girl" cat is 8 yrs old, and was born wild, and remains largely untamed, but comes readily for meals. Please mention this to any cat-lovers you know, so I can find homes for them instead of other undesirable alternatives.

I can be contacted via phone (713-939-9375) or e-mail (kafarr@hal-pc.org).

Thank you--

*Kathy Farr*

## Northeast Texas Trip Report-- January 25-28, 2007

Twelve participants enjoyed two and a half nice days of birding in Northeast Texas at the end of January. We really couldn't have asked for nicer weather; we only got sprinkled on a little bit on Saturday afternoon. Ron Baltzegar showed us around Lake Tawakoni on Friday, Hagerman NWR and the surrounding area on Saturday, and Rowlett Nature Trail, White Rock Lake and Village Creek Drying Beds on Sunday. We ended the trip around 1:00 pm on Sunday. We did have a few adventures during the trip: a car almost getting stuck in a field on Friday, and finding out that between the four cars no one had a tow rope; a car needing a jump Sunday morning; one of the participants locked their keys in their car and had to call a locksmith to get back in their car; and one of the cars getting a friendly visit from the local Greenville Police on our way to Rowlett Nature Trail on Sunday. Fortunately only a warning was issued. I am just glad that all the excitement happened at the end of the trip.

Friday was spent birding around Lake Tawakoni and Richard Kinney was able help us for the day. We stopped first at the state park to walk one of the trails around the lake and through some wooded areas. First bird spotted was a Rock Wren that had been discovered in the rocks near the boat launch during the Texas Ornithological Society's Winter Conference -- a great bird to start the trip off with. Other highlights at the state park were Dark-eyed Juncos, Hairy Woodpecker, four Rusty Blackbirds, Brown Creeper, Bewick's Wren and Winter Wren (heard only). We spent the rest of the day stopping at marinas around the lake looking for ducks and walking one muddy area and driving another muddy field, where one car almost got stuck, to look for longspurs. Other highlights for the day included a White-breasted Nuthatch, Canvasback, Redhead and Horned Grebe. Notable misses on the day were Common Loons (Richard was really surprised not to find any loons around the lake), Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, Smith's Longspur and Lapland Longspur (It has been a real bad year for the latter four species).

Saturday morning we drove to Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge, stopping at the pond behind the fire station in Sherman to look for the White-winged Scoter, and then driving Terry Lane to look for the Northern Shrike. After scanning the pond behind the fire station for about 15-20 minutes, Ron was able to

locate the female White-winged Scoter and all the participants got great looks at the bird. We even observed the white wing patch on the bird, which seemed to be only visible on one side of the bird. Other birds of note in the pond were Common Goldeneye, Hooded Mergansers, more Redheads and Canvasbacks. We missed the shrike along Terry Lane. In Hagerman NWR we drove around the oil pumps looking for more ducks in the ponds and marshes. Ron and the participants in his car got looks at Cinnamon Teal and Blue-winged Teal. We did walk one trail in the morning and got brief looks at a male Eastern Towhee and a female Spotted Towhee. We decided to give the shrike one more try, and no sooner than turning onto Terry Lane from Hagerman Road did Ellen spot the juvenile Northern Shrike. We stopped immediately and everybody piled out of the cars and we got all the scopes we had on the bird. Every participant also got great looks at this bird. It was the third attempt that our guide Ron has made to see the bird, which was a state bird for him. We were even fortunate enough to observe it impale a Yellow-rumped Warbler on a branch of a tree and begin to feed on it. It was quite a spectacle. The only other highlight for the day was one Greater Roadrunner flying across Terry Lane in the morning.

We started out at Rowlett Nature Trail in Dallas on Sunday morning after hearing about the good looks that Bill and Ellen had of Eastern Towhee, Spotted Towhee and Fox Sparrow on their way in Thursday. Since it was colder on Sunday than it was Thursday it took a little play back to get the birds moving but we were able to get great looks at Spotted Towhees and Fox Sparrows. Unfortunately we were not able to locate an Eastern Towhee. We then proceeded over to White Rock Lake to look for the Little Gull that had been seen again a few days ago. We missed it but did get to see an active nest site of Monk Parakeets. We ended the trip at the Village Creek Drying Beds in Arlington, looking at more ducks and hoping to find a Little Gull among the hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls. The one other highlight for the day was a Common Yellowthroat at Rowlett Nature Trail. A few of the participants followed Ron over to the Hudson Oaks subdivision, which is west of Fort Worth, to see the Costa's Hummingbird.

We wound up finding about 110 birds on the trip but we missed the Lapland Longspur and Smith's

Longspur and did not find any loons, which was a shocker. The overall highlights for the trip were seeing 16 species of ducks including the White-winged Scoter; as well as Horned Grebe, Northern Shrike, Costa's Hummingbird, numerous Spotted Towhees and Fox Sparrows; Hairy Woodpecker, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Dark-eyed Junco, and Rusty Blackbird.

I believe just about every participant had a wonderful time and got to add at least one bird to either their life or state list. I would like to thank Richard Kinney for helping us out on Friday at Lake Tawakoni. Thanks also to everybody who participated in this trip, for

### ***Quivering Thrush***

We've had a Hermit Thrush in our yard regularly this past month. Sometimes it perches on a bush or the back fence, lifting its reddish tail and slowly letting it down. Then it flies down to the ground, at the edge of a flowerbed, and starts hopping across the lawn. Compared to the American Robins that are so numerous this winter, it is slight, delicate, and yet deliberate, pausing warily as it progresses.

This thrush has also shown me an odd and often-mentioned behavior called foot-quivering. While standing in the grass, its legs seem to tremble for a couple of seconds, as if shivering. The quivering starts and stops suddenly, while the bird keeps its head and body level and still. Then it moves, suddenly hopping forward, and often picking up something tiny in its bill. Pausing again, the quivering and pecking are repeated. So what's going on?

Several explanations for foot-quivering have been proposed in the literature. The association with ground-feeding makes this almost certainly a foraging behavior. It seems likely that the bird is using this vibration to flush tiny insects or other invertebrates. Some observers have claimed that it can make a buzzing sound in dry leaves, almost like a rattlesnake. I can say that it is subtle and quiet in a wet lawn of St. Augustine grass. Quivering by captive thrushes has also been reported, and considered a display or expression of stress, unrelated to getting food. In any case, it is performed by all the thrushes of the genus *Catharus* (Hermit, Swainson's, Veery, Gray-cheeked). A quick internet search, and my wife Kathie's recollection from many years ago of seeing a migrant Swainson's Thrush quivering, are all I have learned about it so far. So I intend to keep watching the birds on the ground, beyond simply naming and identifying them, hoping to see some more clues to how they live their lives.

--Al Shultz

being so wonderful and making this trip a great one. I appreciate you all for hanging tough in the cold weather on Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. Finally, a big thanks goes to Ron Baltzegar for leading us for two and a half days and finding us some truly great birds.

Participants: Kathy Farr, Bernice Hotman, R.J. Pautsch, Mary Helen Pritchett, Bob Ohmart, Bill Saulmon, Dede Snavely, Dave Stewart, Anna Stewart, Bill Tarbox, Adam Wood and Ellen Baker.

~ Adam Wood

### **BIRDATHON 2007**

Birdathon is Houston Audubon Society's major annual fundraiser. The goal this year is to raise \$50,000 to support our sanctuaries and educational outreach. You can participate in this year's Birdathon by forming or joining a team to count bird species during any 24-hour period from April 9th through April 30th. A team will consist of two or more members and each team member will solicit monetary pledges from family/friends or make a personal pledge to participate. Teams will compete for prizes to be awarded at the HAS general meeting on May 9th. New for this year will be the opportunity to join an HAS sponsored guided team led by a local birding expert. For more information or to sign up for the Birdathon, go to the Houston Audubon website ([www.houstonaudubon.org](http://www.houstonaudubon.org)) or call 713-932-1639 and ask for Karen Barrett. You don't have to be an experienced birder to join in the fun, so sign up today for Houston Audubon Society's 2007 Birdathon.

– Bill Saulmon

Outdoor Nature Club  
Ornithology Group  
P.O. Box 270894  
Houston TX 77277-0894

***The Spoonbill*** Wants Your Help...

Stories, notes, trip reports, or other materials for future issues are always welcome. Send to the Editor at

[og\\_spoonbill@earthlink.net](mailto:og_spoonbill@earthlink.net)

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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	<b><i>Individual</i></b>	<b><i>Family</i></b>
ONC Annual Dues:	\$ 8.00	\$ 15.00
OG Annual Dues:	\$ 14.00	\$ 19.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 22.00</b>	<b>\$ 34.00</b>

Additional contributions are welcome in any amount.

Send to:

Outdoor Nature Club  
PO Box 270894  
Houston TX 77277-0894

Membership questions? Contact Margret Simmons  
phone 713-776-2511  
[msimmons@compassnet.com](mailto:msimmons@compassnet.com)

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now for 2007...*

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Members who do not wish to receive a printed copy of *The Spoonbill* can save \$4 off their dues:

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ONC	\$ 8.00	\$ 15.00
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