



# The Spoonbill

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

April 2007  
Vol. 56 No. 4

## March Meeting

**Monday, April 2, 2007 -- 7:00 p.m.**

Bayland Community Center  
6400 Bissonnet, Houston

**6:30 -- Learning Corner** with **David Bradford**  
Birds and Birding Locations in SE Arizona

**Program: Birding Alaska with Bob Ohmart**

Bob is a native Kansan and received degrees in Aeronautical Engineering and Engineering Mechanics from the University of Kansas. As a Research Associate and Senior Staff Engineer for Conoco, he transferred to Houston in 1987.

He has been a casual birder most of his life, though he notes that an early list contained some rather strange birds for western Kansas. Bob began serious birding after participating in some local OG and Audubon trips in 1992 and 1993 and later was the OG treasurer, vice-chairman and chairman.

Since those early trips, in addition to extensive birding in Texas, he has birded in numerous states and Canadian provinces including Arizona, Colorado, California, Florida, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New England and several pelagic trips in the Gulf of Mexico and off the east and west coasts.

Bob has visited Alaska four times, three times specifically to bird. This presentation will describe some of his birding experiences there, with emphasis on trips to the Pribilofs, Gambell and Nome, Attu and Dutch Harbor.

## Other Events

**Mar. 29 - Apr. 1:** Galveston FeatherFest  
[www.galvestonfeatherfest.com](http://www.galvestonfeatherfest.com)

**April 9-30:** HAS Birdathon

**April 12-14:** TOS Conference, San Antonio

**Sunday, April 22:** Spring Migration Trip:  
Sabine, TX with Steve Mays

**May 10-13:** West Texas Trip with Mike Overton and Tony Gallucci.

**May 19:** Kayking in Galveston Bay with Artist Boat Inc.

**May 26:** W.G. Jones State Forest and Breeding Warblers in Sam Houston National Forest with Steve Gross

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## Minutes of the March 5, 2007 Meeting

Bayland Community Center

Attendance: 45

- 1. Learning Corner:** David Bradford talked about a group trip he leads to Colorado to see the three Rosy-finch species of North America. He discussed Rosy-finch identification and other specialties/rarities seen on the trip. The next one is Jan. 30 to Feb. 3, 2008.
- 2. Michael Williams** opened the meeting at about 7:05 p.m. with bird sightings. Sightings included many waterbirds at Willow Waterhole; Purple Martins and Yellow-crowned Night Heron in Kathy Farr's yard and possibly nesting Cooper's Hawk in her neighborhood; Prairie Falcon at Attwater's Prairie Chicken NWR; and Red-vented Bulbul and Wilson's Warbler near the Heights.
- 3. Minutes** of the February meeting were accepted as printed in the Spoonbill.
- 4. Dues:** Margret Simmons said most people have paid their dues, but not everyone yet.
- 5. Elections** are scheduled for next month. Michael said he'll be calling people this week to ask them to serve as officers, and if anyone else wants to serve, let him know.
- 6. Environmental:** Dr. Merrick talked about the coal-fired power-plant issue and said to contact our legislators to push for a moratorium on new plants, as well as strong efficiency and pollution controls on any new plants that are built.
- 7. Birdathon:** Bill Saulmon talked about Houston Audubon's Birdathon and encouraged everyone to participate.
- 8. Spoonbill:** Submission deadline for next issue is March 10. Contributions welcome. Almost everyone got their March issue on time, and some early.
- 9. Field Trips:** The Lake Houston trip garnered great looks at three Henslow's Sparrows, plus Eastern Towhee for some participants, and Golden-crowned Kinglet. The Texas City Prairie Preserve trip saw some Attwater's Prairie Chickens in flight, but not displaying. Later, some people got to see Monk Parakeets, and others found Northern Gannets and a Surf Scoter. Upcoming trips are to Jesse Jones Park; the Bolivar Bird Survey and Texas City Dike; and Sabine Woods, McFaddin NWR and the Willows at Sea Rim S.P. On Mother's Day weekend there is a quarterly trip, to west Texas for Golden-cheeked Warbler, Black-capped Vireo and others.
- 10. Farewell:** Michael said farewell, good luck and thank you to Marilyn Crane, a longtime member who is moving out of state, and we gave her a round of applause.
- 11. State Parks:** Jim Winn noted the upcoming bus trip to Austin to talk to legislators about state parks funding.
- 12. Budget:** Jim went through the budget handout and cash-flow handout and said everything's on track for us to be within budget, or close to it, for the fiscal year.
- 13. Program:** Bernice introduced Carol Jones, of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Carol coordinates the Great Texas Birding Classic, a joint project of the GCBO and Texas Parks and Wildlife. She talked about what the Classic is, how it works, how easy it is to find a team or put one together, who it benefits (the birds!), the large amount of funding it generates for conservation projects, and the positive media coverage it generates. There are adult teams, youth teams, a big-sit tournament, and for the visually impaired, a birding-by-ear tournament. Teams can even enter both the Classic and HAS Birdathon, which is the same month.

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/>

## **Spring Migration Trip to Sabine, TX**

**April 22, 2007 – Note Date Change: Now Sunday, not Saturday**

**Meet at Sabine Woods, 7:30 a.m.**

**Fee: \$5 for entry into Sabine Woods**

This spring's migration trip will be spent birding the Sabine area. The Sabine area, like High Island, Galveston Island and Quintana, is one of the best migrant traps on the Upper Texas Coast. Many birders from around the country and the world descend on these places hoping to see as many migrants as possible. If the weather cooperates we could get 20 or more species of warblers, at least five species of vireos, and all of the larger migrants such as grosbeaks and tanagers. Also, being situated a bit farther east than the other migrant traps, the more eastern migrants such as Cape May Warbler and Black-throated Blue Warbler tend to show up here with more regularity. Last year produced a large invasion of Black-whiskered Vireos, with several of the sightings coming from the Sabine area. Also last spring a few Yellow-green Vireos were reported in the Sabine area.

Steve Mayes, a local birder of the Sabine area, will be our guide for the day. He has been birding this area exclusively during the last several spring migrations. He knows where the rarer and more sought-after migrants tend to show up. He will be showing us Sabine Woods, the Willows at Sea Rim State Park, and McFaddin NWR, as well as a few other good locations for migrants. This should be a great trip, and with a little help from the weather, could be as good as or better than last April's trip to Galveston Island. You will not want to miss this trip. Remember, we want it to rain, so if it looks like it will rain during the trip, don't let the rain turn you away; we will be out birding anyway, so come help us find as many species of migrants (especially warblers) as we can.

Directions: We will meet at 7:30 a.m. at the covered area with the sightings board, which is the first structure that you will see when you enter Sabine Woods. To get to Sabine Woods, take I-10 east out of Houston to the Winnie exit, and go east on U.S. 73 toward Port Arthur. Turn on Texas 82 (south) and go for about 1.5 miles. At the traffic light, turn right on Texas 87 (south) toward Sabine Pass through the Clark refinery and across a high bridge over the Intracoastal Waterway. Continue for about 9 more miles to Sabine Pass and turn right (west) at the stop sign in the town's main square. Proceed about 4.2 miles until you see a woodlot on the right (north) side of the road, just past the Petroleum Helicopters base. The road's shoulder is a reasonably firm parking area. Access the woods through a "gate" that is a removable section of the fence.

Be sure to bring: binoculars, spotting scope, camera, rain gear, hat, sunscreen, water, \$5 admission fee for Sabine Woods, and a lunch because there is no place nearby to stop and eat lunch.

~ Adam Wood, OG Field Trip Coordinator, [birdman\\_570@yahoo.com](mailto:birdman_570@yahoo.com), 713-515-1692

**Katy Prairie Update:** OG members and friends are invited to participate in upcoming events presented by the Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC). The Katy Prairie not only is a popular birding area -- it is also an important local ecological and historical heritage site. KPC volunteers get to spend time in this great place while sharing their enthusiasm with others. Orientation sessions for KPC volunteers will be held March 24, June 2, September 29, and December 8. Also, Jaime Gonzalez, Community Education Coordinator for KPC, is presenting "prairieEConnections," a series of courses on interpretation for current and prospective KPC volunteers, on April 7, June 16, September 22, and December 1. Jaime brings a wealth of knowledge and a fresh, inspiring approach to nature appreciation, and these courses are sure to be a hit. Contact Jaime by email at [info@katyprairie.org](mailto:info@katyprairie.org) or by phone at 713-523-6135; see [www.katyprairie.org](http://www.katyprairie.org) for more information. --Editor

## Spring Quarterly Trip Announcement: West Texas

May 10-13, 2007

*Meet at Margarita Villa Living Room, Thursday May 10, 9:00 p.m.*

This spring's quarterly field trip will be to Kerr Wildlife Management Area, Kickapoo State Park, (Park Chalk Bluff if we cannot get into Kickapoo State Park), Lost Maples and Cooks Slough. Mike Overton and Tony Gallucci (Saturday and Sunday) will be our leaders for this trip. Mike has led many birding trips for groups to these places and Tony has helped groups out at Kerr WMA and Lost Maples. The main targets for this trip are the Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo. These birds can be seen at all the places we are going to visit with the exception of Cooks Slough. The probability that we will see both these birds is very good, and bring your cameras because we should have some good photo opportunities with at least the Golden-cheeked Warbler. Meanwhile we will also be on the lookout for other west Texas specialties such as Zone-tailed Hawk, Lazuli Bunting, Wild Turkey, Common Poorwill, Bell's, Gray (rare) and Hutton's Vireos, Bushtit, Verdin, Cassin's, Brewer's (rare) and Clay-colored Sparrows, Bullock's and Scott's Orioles, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. This is going to be a great trip in some beautiful country, the Texas Hill Country, so you will not want to miss it. If you are interested in going on this trip, please let me know and I will get your name on the list.

**Accommodations:** I have reserved a cabin in Concan, Texas, that sleeps 24 for \$775 a night. The cabin has six bedrooms with 17 beds and 6.5 baths. It also has a swimming pool (bring your swim suit if you feel like a relaxing soak after a full day of birding) and a full kitchen (bring what ever drinks and food you like, but remember that there are other people bringing food and drinks as well, so don't go overboard).

**Directions:** Take I-10 west out of Houston to San Antonio, then US 90 West to Sabinal. In Sabinal, look for Texas 127/FM 187 North. Turn right on Hwy. 127/187 at the only red light. After approximately 2 miles the highway forks; veer left on Hwy.127, and continue approximately 20 miles. Just before Hwy.127 hits Hwy.83, turn right on River Road (first paved road to the right after crossing the Frio River). Once on River Road, follow it around to the Margarita Villa. The Margarita Villa will be on your right after you pass the Frio Country Store, cross the Frio River and pass Cypress Bend. It will be directly across from Comanche Crossing. If you get lost and need help finding the cabin, you can stop in at the Frio Country Store or call 1-888-926-6226 for help. Please be sure to be there by 9:00 p.m. on May 10th. I am planning to have a meeting with everybody to discuss how the trip is going to run and collect money for the guides' fee at that time. If you cannot make it by then, please let me know.

Be sure to bring: binoculars, spotting scope, camera to take pics of the Golden-cheeks, rain gear in case it rains, hat, sunscreen, water, snacks for during the day, and lunch material for Friday and Saturday. If you wish to bring breakfast and dinner food as well as drinks, feel free to because the cabin has a big freezer/fridge as well as an oven and stove.

~ Adam Wood, OG Field Trip Coordinator, [birdman\\_570@yahoo.com](mailto:birdman_570@yahoo.com), 713-515-1692

## Field Trip Reports

### February 10, 2007 – Lake Houston Park

Thirteen participants enjoyed a lovely morning walk around Lake Houston Park on a chilly overcast day. It was still wet and muddy even after several days of dry weather, and those who brought their mud boots were glad that they had them. Jerry Walls, the park naturalist, was our guide for the morning and he was able to find us some good birds, including our target, the Henslow's Sparrow. We started the morning off by walking around the front part of the park, spending the most time at the photo blind waiting to see if either of the two Eastern Towhees would come in to the seed pile near the photo blind. While we were waiting, we got great looks at Eastern Bluebirds, Pine Warblers, and Chipping Sparrows, some of which had really rufous crowns and looked like they were already in breeding plumage. RJ finally spotted the female towhee and a few of the participants got brief glimpses of it, though it never came in to the seed pile. (...continued, p. 5...)

*(Lake Houston, continued:)* Other highlights around the front of the park were a Brown Creeper, seen close at eye level by all participants, and hearing several calling Golden-crowned Kinglets that we could not locate up in the pine trees.

At about 10:30 we decided it was time to go after the bird that we came for: the Henslow's Sparrow. We drove back to one of the areas where they were being seen, which was along a pipeline easement. After walking about 500 feet along the easement, we flushed our first Henslow's. It took the group a little while to get the technique of surrounding the bird without getting too close to it; we lost the first bird in the woods. A little while later we flushed another one, but we again unfortunately lost it in the woods. Finally, just before we reached the creek, we flushed a third bird and were able to surround it, so that everybody got great looks at it. I guess the third time really is the charm. In all for the trip we totaled about 35 species and all participants had a great time. I would like to thank Jerry Walls for taking time out of his busy day to show us around the park and help us find the Henslow's Sparrow.

Participants: Nancy Hannan, Kay Piper, Margaret Butler, Marilyn Crane, Paul Downey, Layton Guinn, RJ Pautsch, Karen Vargas, Pam Smolen, The Rhodes, and Adam Wood

~ *Adam Wood*

### **February 17, 2007 -- Texas City Prairie Preserve**

Jared Judy, a Texas Nature Conservancy volunteer, took eight participants out to the blind near the lek used by the Attwater's Prairie Chicken to watch them strut their stuff on a very cold February morning. We heard at least one Prairie Chicken call early in the morning just before first light, and saw a couple of birds fly in to one of the corners of the lek. Unfortunately, we only got brief looks at the Prairie Chickens on the ground and our best looks were when they were flying away from the lek. None of the Prairie Chickens really got to booming and strutting their stuff, which was disappointing. Jared informed us that historically the best conditions for a good show from the Prairie Chickens are on a warm cloudy morning. A few of the participants signed up for the March trip in hopes of seeing a better show in March. The population at the Preserve has been hovering around 15 to 20 birds with slightly more females than males for the past several years. Back at the preserve headquarters, Jared showed us some videos taken of the Prairie Chickens on the lek. One of the videos reminded me of the first booming tour I went on at the preserve, when the Prairie Chickens were especially active and put on a great show. I really was hoping that we all would have a similar experience to the one I had that first time. We didn't, but all the

participants were good sports and I thank you all for that.

After leaving the Preserve, we split up and some of the group went in search of the Monk Parakeets that have established a colony near the preserve in Dickinson. The rest went with me in search of scoters and Pacific Loon on Galveston Island. We first stopped at the Flagship Pier Hotel off 25th Street and the Seawall, where we saw one immature male Surf Scoter, but it was a flyby, hardly the look we were hoping for. We also found a few Common Loons, one raft of scaup (most likely Lesser but they were too far out to identify to species). We also saw 3-4 Northern Gannets, including one adult. We then went over to Offat's Bayou to see if we could find a Pacific Loon -- we saw several Common Loons but no Pacific. While we were there we saw a Brown Pelican being harassed by a Laughing Gull that was hoping to steal a meal away from the pelican. The Laughing Gull even landed on the pelican's head once, and its back a couple of times -- quite a sight. The group that went for the Monk Parakeets did manage to find and get great looks at a few. Participants: Cindy Douglass, Dennis Vollmar, Bob Wall, Bill Tarbox, Bryan Tarbox, Ellen Baker, Adam Wood and Maricarmen Razones

~ *Adam Wood*

Clearing House -- February 2007  
David Sarkozi - [david@sarkozi.net](mailto:david@sarkozi.net) - 713-412-4409

This is a summary of bird reported to eBird.org. Unusual birds are in bold. There are 225 species listed for the Upper Texas Coast (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Jefferson Counties) for February 2007 from 344 checklists.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck birds =522 reports = 21  
Greater White-fronted Goose birds =753 reports = 11  
Snow Goose birds =31,795 reports = 24  
Ross's Goose birds =77 reports = 5  
Cackling Goose birds =29 reports = 8  
**Canada Goose birds =10 reports = 4**  
Wood Duck birds =105 reports = 23  
Gadwall birds =691 reports = 31  
American Wigeon birds =79 reports = 9  
Mallard birds =160 reports = 30  
Mottled Duck birds =104 reports = 22  
Blue-winged Teal birds =623 reports = 45  
Cinnamon Teal birds =13 reports = 6  
Northern Shoveler birds =1,052 reports = 42  
Northern Pintail birds =3,655 reports = 20  
Green-winged Teal birds =832 reports = 25  
Canvasback birds =0 reports = 0  
Redhead birds =15 reports = 4  
Ring-necked Duck birds =265 reports = 18  
Lesser Scaup birds =2,306 reports = 18  
Bufflehead birds =16 reports = 5  
Common Goldeneye birds =15 reports = 5  
Hooded Merganser birds =14 reports = 6  
Red-breasted Merganser birds =182 reports = 14  
Ruddy Duck birds =350 reports = 16  
Northern Bobwhite birds =36 reports = 3  
Common Loon birds =21 reports = 9  
**Least Grebe birds =9 reports = 6**  
Pied-billed Grebe birds =439 reports = 57  
Horned Grebe birds =5 reports = 1  
Eared Grebe birds =4 reports = 4  
Northern Gannet birds =7 reports = 2  
American White Pelican birds =803 reports = 22  
Brown Pelican birds =208 reports = 23  
Neotropic Cormorant birds =536 reports = 22  
Double-crested Cormorant birds =1,226 reports = 73  
Anhinga birds =41 reports = 11  
American Bittern birds =5 reports = 5  
Great Blue Heron birds =261 reports = 84  
Great Egret birds =369 reports = 94  
Snowy Egret birds =395 reports = 63  
Little Blue Heron birds =86 reports = 43  
Tricolored Heron birds =30 reports = 18  
Reddish Egret birds =5 reports = 4  
Cattle Egret birds =90 reports = 15  
**Green Heron birds =2 reports = 2**  
Black-crowned Night-Heron birds =124 reports = 11  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron birds =41 reports = 5  
White Ibis birds =1,199 reports = 55  
White-faced Ibis birds =600 reports = 28  
Roseate Spoonbill birds =154 reports = 28  
Black Vulture birds =617 reports = 69  
Turkey Vulture birds =729 reports = 87  
Osprey birds =63 reports = 34  
White-tailed Kite birds =18 reports = 11  
Bald Eagle birds =12 reports = 8  
Northern Harrier birds =108 reports = 42  
Sharp-shinned Hawk birds =14 reports = 13  
Cooper's Hawk birds =14 reports = 11  
**Harris's Hawk birds =6 reports = 4**  
Red-shouldered Hawk birds =87 reports = 55  
White-tailed Hawk birds =7 reports = 4  
Red-tailed Hawk birds =182 reports = 68  
Crested Caracara birds =35 reports = 21

American Kestrel birds =96 reports = 47  
**Merlin birds =1 reports = 1**  
**Peregrine Falcon birds =6 reports = 5**  
Clapper Rail birds =5 reports = 3  
King Rail birds =0 reports = 0  
Sora birds =6 reports = 5  
**Purple Gallinule birds =1 reports = 1**  
Common Moorhen birds =575 reports = 30  
American Coot birds =4,681 reports = 63  
Sandhill Crane birds =523 reports = 13  
Black-bellied Plover birds =96 reports = 8  
**Snowy Plover birds =66 reports = 4**  
Wilson's Plover birds =1 reports = 1  
Semipalmated Plover birds =48 reports = 7  
Piping Plover birds =12 reports = 1  
Killdeer birds =378 reports = 66  
American Oystercatcher birds =11 reports = 3  
Black-necked Stilt birds =108 reports = 4  
American Avocet birds =4,661 reports = 6  
Greater Yellowlegs birds =44 reports = 18  
Lesser Yellowlegs birds =237 reports = 13  
**Solitary Sandpiper birds =4 reports = 4**  
Willet birds =492 reports = 13  
Spotted Sandpiper birds =34 reports = 19  
**Whimbrel birds =0 reports = 0**  
Long-billed Curlew birds =69 reports = 3  
Marbled Godwit birds =125 reports = 4  
Ruddy Turnstone birds =40 reports = 5  
Sanderling birds =121 reports = 6  
Western Sandpiper birds =669 reports = 3  
Least Sandpiper birds =499 reports = 23  
**Pectoral Sandpiper birds =10 reports = 1**  
Dunlin birds =121 reports = 2  
**Stilt Sandpiper birds =114 reports = 4**  
Short-billed Dowitcher birds =182 reports = 6  
Long-billed Dowitcher birds =2,683 reports = 15  
Wilson's Snipe birds =94 reports = 9  
**American Woodcock birds =1 reports = 1**  
Laughing Gull birds =3,714 reports = 45  
Bonaparte's Gull birds =79 reports = 7  
Ring-billed Gull birds =3,543 reports = 38  
**California Gull birds =2 reports = 1**  
Herring Gull birds =574 reports = 14  
**Lesser Black-backed Gull birds =4 reports = 3**  
**Glaucous Gull birds =1 reports = 1**  
Gull-billed Tern birds =3 reports = 1  
Caspian Tern birds =18 reports = 10  
Royal Tern birds =54 reports = 7  
**Common Tern birds =0 reports = 0**  
Forster's Tern birds =278 reports = 22  
Black Skimmer birds =836 reports = 7  
Rock Pigeon birds =765 reports = 36  
Eurasian Collared-Dove birds =150 reports = 21  
White-winged Dove birds =242 reports = 50  
Mourning Dove birds =789 reports = 135  
Inca Dove birds =68 reports = 18  
Monk Parakeet birds =19 reports = 8  
**Greater Roadrunner birds =1 reports = 1**  
Barn Owl birds =7 reports = 4  
Eastern Screech-Owl birds =4 reports = 3  
Great Horned Owl birds =6 reports = 4  
**Burrowing Owl birds =1 reports = 1**  
Barred Owl birds =3 reports = 3  
**Buff-bellied Hummingbird birds =1 reports = 1**

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird birds =2 reports = 2**  
**Black-chinned Hummingbird birds =6 reports = 5**  
**Calliope Hummingbird birds =3 reports = 2**  
**Broad-tailed Hummingbird birds =3 reports = 3**  
**Rufous Hummingbird birds =38 reports = 20**  
**Allen's Hummingbird birds =1 reports = 1**  
 Belted Kingfisher birds =66 reports = 41  
 Red-headed Woodpecker birds =19 reports = 12  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker birds =227 reports = 106  
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker birds =60 reports = 35  
 Downy Woodpecker birds =131 reports = 77  
 Northern Flicker birds =32 reports = 17  
 Pileated Woodpecker birds =46 reports = 32  
**Least Flycatcher birds =5 reports = 2**  
 Eastern Phoebe birds =323 reports = 87  
 Vermilion Flycatcher birds =26 reports = 16  
**Ash-throated Flycatcher birds =2 reports = 2**  
**Couch's Kingbird birds =0 reports = 0**  
 Loggerhead Shrike birds =149 reports = 58  
 White-eyed Vireo birds =11 reports = 9  
 Blue-headed Vireo birds =22 reports = 19  
 Blue Jay birds =250 reports = 113  
 American Crow birds =340 reports = 87  
 Horned Lark birds =17 reports = 7  
**Purple Martin birds =154 reports = 35**  
 Tree Swallow birds =288 reports = 6  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow birds =75 reports = 10**  
**Cave Swallow birds =19 reports = 3**  
**Barn Swallow birds =5 reports = 3**  
 Carolina Chickadee birds =409 reports = 96  
 Tufted Titmouse birds =171 reports = 51  
**Brown-headed Nuthatch birds =1 reports = 1**  
 Brown Creeper birds =30 reports = 25  
 Carolina Wren birds =233 reports = 84  
 House Wren birds =39 reports = 30  
 Winter Wren birds =7 reports = 6  
 Sedge Wren birds =6 reports = 6  
 Marsh Wren birds =11 reports = 6  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet birds =66 reports = 28  
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet birds =599 reports = 124  
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher birds =31 reports = 19  
 Eastern Bluebird birds =142 reports = 33  
 Hermit Thrush birds =110 reports = 51  
 American Robin birds =6,044 reports = 179  
 Gray Catbird birds =28 reports = 19  
 Northern Mockingbird birds =454 reports = 155  
 Brown Thrasher birds =47 reports = 29  
 European Starling birds =1,456 reports = 79  
 American Pipit birds =458 reports = 44

Sprague's Pipit birds =7 reports = 4  
 Cedar Waxwing birds =1,681 reports = 43  
 Orange-crowned Warbler birds =118 reports = 58  
**Northern Parula birds =1 reports = 1**  
**Yellow Warbler birds =1 reports = 1**  
 Yellow-rumped Warbler birds =2,431 reports = 147  
**Yellow-throated Warbler birds =4 reports = 4**  
 Pine Warbler birds =441 reports = 87  
 Palm Warbler birds =8 reports = 3  
**Black-and-white Warbler birds =1 reports = 1**  
**Ovenbird birds =1 reports = 1**  
 Common Yellowthroat birds =63 reports = 21  
 Wilson's Warbler birds =5 reports = 5  
 Summer Tanager birds =1 reports = 1  
 Spotted Towhee birds =3 reports = 3  
 Eastern Towhee birds =3 reports = 2  
 Chipping Sparrow birds =389 reports = 43  
 Field Sparrow birds =29 reports = 11  
 Vesper Sparrow birds =7 reports = 2  
 Lark Sparrow birds =1 reports = 1  
 Savannah Sparrow birds =1,047 reports = 74  
 Grasshopper Sparrow birds =2 reports = 1  
 Henslow's Sparrow birds =16 reports = 6  
 Le Conte's Sparrow birds =12 reports = 4  
 Seaside Sparrow birds =30 reports = 3  
 Fox Sparrow birds =5 reports = 5  
 Song Sparrow birds =30 reports = 11  
 Lincoln's Sparrow birds =28 reports = 15  
 Swamp Sparrow birds =235 reports = 40  
 White-throated Sparrow birds =261 reports = 47  
**Harris's Sparrow birds =3 reports = 3**  
 White-crowned Sparrow birds =98 reports = 10  
**Dark-eyed Junco birds =18 reports = 9**  
 Northern Cardinal birds =898 reports = 144  
 Red-winged Blackbird birds =5,379 reports = 108  
 Eastern Meadowlark birds =515 reports = 45  
**Western Meadowlark birds =1 reports = 1**  
**Rusty Blackbird birds =58 reports = 3**  
 Brewer's Blackbird birds =141 reports = 4  
 Common Grackle birds =3,750 reports = 56  
 Boat-tailed Grackle birds =311 reports = 12  
 Great-tailed Grackle birds =1,902 reports = 66  
**Bronzed Cowbird birds =6 reports = 3**  
 Brown-headed Cowbird birds =528 reports = 33  
 House Finch birds =70 reports = 23  
**Pine Siskin birds =30 reports = 9**  
 American Goldfinch birds =2,055 reports = 109  
 House Sparrow birds =480 reports = 59

## Crashing for a Living

OG member Ellen Baker forwarded an email from some acquaintances of hers who have been sailing around the globe. They sent her the email below while visiting Culebra, Puerto Rico. I thought it was worth a chuckle. – *Bill Tarbox*

Today we were sitting at a restaurant along the water watching a pelican do some fishing nearby. If you've ever seen a pelican fish, you'll understand that it isn't exactly the most graceful display in the animal kingdom. Obviously a tourist seated near us had never seen this before. 'Oh my! Honey, that bird just crashed. He started to take off but then the wind caught him and he crashed right back in to the water. Oh no, it just happened again.' Now it was a pretty windy day, but I would seriously doubt any bird would have had trouble flying in it. I figured the husband would see it and set her straight but instead he said, 'Golly, that one over there just crashed too. Maybe those birds are just too big to fly in this weather.' We didn't have the heart to tell them the truth. Besides, their friends will be amazed to hear the story of Culebra's Crashing Birds.

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

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

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