



The Spoonbill

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

March 2008
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March Meeting

Monday, March 3, 2008 -- 7:00 p.m.

Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet, Houston

Learning Corner (6:30 p.m.)

Program: Chimney Swifts

Georgean and Paul Kyle have had a love affair with Chimney Swifts for more than 20 years. They have hand-reared and released more than 1100 babies, cared for injured adults, built dozens of towers for the swifts to nest and roost in and worked tirelessly to educate the public about these benign, beneficial avian insectivores. In 1995 they founded the North American Chimney Swift Nest Site Research Project, a continent-wide conservation initiative, and in 1999 received the National Partners in Flight award for their efforts in Public Awareness. Their book about the secret life of Chimney Swifts and a companion book on Chimney Swift tower construction were published by the Texas A&M University Press in the spring of 2005.

Georgean and Paul Kyle were born in 1950, married in 1969, and moved to northwestern Travis County, Texas, in 1972. They have been involved in bird-banding, public education and avian conservation since 1984. They previously held State and Federal permits for bird-banding, avian rehabilitation and special purpose scientific projects. They have been members of the Board of Directors of the Driftwood Wildlife Association (DWA) since 1986. In addition, they are editors of *Chaetura*, the annual newsletter of the North American Chimney Swift Nest Site Research Project, and creators and maintainers of the DWA web site and <http://www.chimneyswifts.org/>.

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Other Events

March TBA: San Bernard NWR Yellow and Black Rails (Jennifer Wilson)

April 7: OG Meeting and program
(Mike Austin on birding by ear)

April 10-13: Spring Quarterly to Falcon, San Ygnacio and Laredo (Joel Ruiz and Susan Foster)

April 19: Armand Bayou
(George Regmund)

May 8-13: Montana Owl Workshop
(Denver Holt)

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Minutes of the Monthly OG Meeting

Monday, February 4, 2008
Bayland Community Center
Number of Attendees: 79

- 1. Learning Corner:** Michael Williams discussed where to find warblers in the winter in the Houston area.
- 2. Sightings:** Pam Smolen opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with bird sightings. Sightings included Calliope and Anna's Hummingbirds in northwest Houston, an Osprey chased by a Kite on Bray's Bayou, and a Merlin at Anahuac NWR.
- 3. West 11th Street Park:** Mary Dodson announced that everyone is invited to a walk at the park on the third Tuesday of each month from 8:30-10:30 a.m. There is always a chance of seeing a Great Horned Owl. There will be a dedication of the park on Thursday, February 21, at 10:30 a.m. Everyone is invited.
- 4. Environmental News:** Peg McNealy stressed good news this month with the passage of Proposition 4, and the strong possibility that the Christmas Mountains might be added to Big Bend National Park after ten thousand Texans signed petitions protesting plans to sell the Christmas Mountains to private interests. Peg said we can make a difference, so remember to write a letter or make a call. Also, Edith Moore Nature Sanctuary is now open for birding.
- 5. Katy Prairie Conservancy:** "Open Trails Day" will take place the first Sunday of each month. It will provide an opportunity for public access to the prairie.
- 6. Field Trips:** Adam Wood said 17 participants enjoyed the trip on January 19. Sixty-five species were seen including Harris's, Lark, Vesper and Le Conte's Sparrow, Palm Warbler, Canada Geese, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Rufous Hummer, and two American Woodcocks. The quarterly trip to Calhoun County from January 24-27 was another great success with 148 species seen. The highlight of the trip was 75 Common Goldeneyes. Some of the other birds seen were Hooded Merganser, Eared Grebe, Green Heron, Bald Eagle, White-tailed Hawk, Virginia and Black Rails, Sora, Piping Plover, Groove-billed Ani, and Black-throated Sparrow.
- 7. February Monthly Trip:** The next monthly trip will be on Saturday, February 16, to Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR. We probably won't see the Attwater Prairie-Chicken, but there are many other interesting birds we'll be looking for, including Cinnamon Teal and Fulvous Whistling-Ducks.
- 8. March Monthly Trip:** This trip will take place to the San Bernard NWR. This will be an evening trip on a Saturday beginning at 6:30 p.m. Jennifer Wilson of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be catching and banding Yellow and Black Rails. The exact date has not been set so contact Adam Wood if you are interesting in going.

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:	Bernice Hotman	713-782-7889
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Membership:	Margret Simmons	713-776-2511
Field Trips:	Adam Wood	713-515-1692
Learning Corner:	Michael Williams	713-228-9064

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

- 9. Spring Quarterly Trip:** This trip will take place April 10-13 to the Laredo and Falcon area. Let Adam Wood know if you are interested in attending.
- 10. Owl Workshop:** This trip is May 8-13, 2008 to Montana. There are still openings so let Adam know if you are interested in going.
- 11. Program:** Karen McBride, currently office manager of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, presented a fascinating slide show called "Birding Down Under". Her trip to Australia and New Zealand took place from September 2 - October 29, 2005. She had 54 days of non-stop birding. The birds in that part of the world are big, colorful and unique. Karen's photography and commentary were very interesting and instructive in learning about the "Birds Down Under". She saw a total of 574 species with 88% or 505 of them lifers. She also saw 67 species of other animals.
- 12. A live Aplomado Falcon** paid us a surprise visit with Peter Jenny, director of the Peregrine Fund. The falcon was a beautiful adult female, 7-1/2 years old. Mr. Jenny talked about what has been done to save the Aplomado Falcon from extinction. They disappeared from South Texas about 50 years ago, but with a concerted effort to save them, there are now 40 pairs in South Texas.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30

-- Cindy Douglass, OG Secretary

Making Plans for a New Year

This month, two separate threads of thought have been trying to weave themselves together for a monthly column -- so far without much success, but the deadline is here and something needs to be put on paper. Thread one is resolutions for the new year -- to make or not to make them and when to give up on them. Thread two is investing for the new year -- the market fluctuations have some investors panicking and just getting out.

Did you resolve to become a better birdwatcher this year, or are you satisfied with your level of skill or firm in your belief that you can become no better? How does one achieve a personally satisfying level of competence? One acknowledged expert said that he and a friend used a field guide to quiz each other on road trips. (They reached the point where they had to hide the book from each other because they knew where in the guide each bird was.) Some people like to just flip through or regularly read their field guides and other books on each different group of birds. Isn't the quiz in the new shorebird book a helpful challenge? At least one of my birding magazines has a monthly photo quiz with similar appearing birds to help sharpen identification skills. Time in the field with someone better than me is my favorite way improve, albeit a little lazy on my part. Time spent looking at birds or learning materials is essential for most of us to sharpen our skills. There is nothing wrong with being a garden variety birder and simply enjoying the birds you see. However, some birders will want to push themselves a little more, and isn't that what resolutions are all about?

All of this sort of leads to investing. Investing at least time is critical to becoming a better birder. But what about equipment? Have you invested in the best binoculars that you can afford? Is it time to step up to a spotting scope? When I started birding, I was told that all I needed was a pair of binoculars and a field guide. The first time I couldn't even see the ducks in the morning mist, much less identify them, I knew it was time for better optics. Besides, I was spending more than one Saturday morning a month (initially all the time I had to spend to do this), so it made sense to me to invest in better optics. But I also invested in more field guides...not

one, not two, but now I carry a box in the car to have all the reference guides with me (as if I expect to find some rare, exceptional bird or learn from the books just by having them with me).

And what about sound? CDs, tapes, iPods all help with learning to recognize birds by song, call, chip...assuming one has good hearing and is an auditory learner. Unfortunately, I don't hear the high notes of the sparrows and I'm really a slow learner by ear. So, I try to learn just a few birds at a time but I do continue to work at it rather than parking where I am. I just need to keep investing a little more time and effort in this area.

Enjoying the birds is the name of the game for us all. Spend time enriching your life with the experience. Recognize that you will never be able to identify every bird that you see, but resolve to do the best that you can and invest what time you have available to become a little more skilled. Be willing to look wherever you are and commit your senses to being aware of birds as an enthralling aspect of daily life.

--Bernice Hotman, OG Chairperson

March Program (continued from Page 1):

In December of 2006, the Kyles entered a life-time partnership with the Travis Audubon Society (TAS) when they donated their home and the surrounding 8 acres to be maintained in perpetuity as the Chaetura Canyon Bird Sanctuary. They continue to live on the property under a Life Estate and as TAS Sanctuary Stewards.

Sleek, unique and secretive, Chimney Swifts build their nests, raise their families and sleep just feet from where we watch TV, eat meals and play with our own children, yet most people have never actually seen a swift to know what it is. Join the Kyles as they explore the secretive home life of these aerial acrobats, their fight to cling to survival and what is being done to conserve their declining numbers.

Monthly Trip: San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge

March (date to be announced), 2008

Refuge Headquarters, 6:30 p.m.

Required: Full Length Snake Chaps

This month's trip is a very special one to [San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge](#). We will be spending two to three hours searching for the Yellow and Black Rails. Most birders refer to the Black Rail as the holy grail of birds because it is one of the hardest birds to find and get a good look at. Jennifer Wilson with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will serve as our guide, and she will do a banding demonstration for us with the rails. Jennifer has been monitoring the rails during the spring for the past several years. She knows where they tend to be concentrated, so there is a very high likelihood that we will see both rails. We will be in a part of the refuge that is not accessible to the public.

Jennifer is requiring that everybody wear full length snake chaps. She will have 6 available for those who don't have snake chaps. If you are not wearing snake chaps you will not be allowed in the grass. If you are interested in purchasing snake chaps, the easiest way to do it is through an online merchant like Cabela's. I believe the only place locally that sells them is Carter's Country.

This will be an evening trip, but I will probably be there in the afternoon and those who would like to bird with me are welcome. I will be birding Moccasin Pond and Bobcat Woods. Be sure to grab dinner beforehand because we will be starting around 6:45 and finishing up between 9 and 10 p.m. I can't set a date for this trip until a week or two prior, because we will need to wait for a day that will have a warm evening so the birds will not lose too much body heat while they are being banded. This will be a great trip, one that you will not want to miss. Keep checking the website for a date to be posted, or let me know that you are interested and I will email all interested parties with the date for this trip as soon as it is known. I will also post a message to the OG Listserve with the date when I get word from Jennifer.

Directions from Houston: Take SH 288 south to FM 2004 in Lake Jackson. Take FM 2004 southwest for seven miles to where it becomes FM 2611 and continue south for 4 miles to FM 2918. Go left on FM 2918 and drive one mile south to CR 306, then west (right) on CR 306.

Be sure to bring: Full length snake chaps, binoculars, knee-high boots (we could go through some very wet areas searching for the rails), water, mosquito repellent (you will need it) and a camera to take pics of the rails.

Spring Quarterly Trip, April 10-13, 2008: Laredo, San Ygnacio & Falcon Area

This spring's quarterly trip will be to Laredo, Falcon Dam and San Ygnacio. We will be spending Friday birding from Falcon Dam to San Ygnacio and we will spend Saturday and Sunday morning birding around Laredo. Joel Ruiz will be our leader on Friday in the Falcon area and Susan Foster will be our guide for Saturday and Sunday around Laredo. Joel Ruiz was the curator of the San Ygnacio Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary until he retired recently. He has spent most of his time recently keeping tabs on the White-collared Seedeaters in the Sanctuary. Susan Foster is the compiler for the Laredo CBC and has birded the Laredo area extensively for many years and has led several trips for the TOS and HAS in the Laredo area.

We will be staying in Laredo at the Family Gardens Inn & Suites (5830 San Bernardo Ave.; phone 1-800-292-4053). The hotel is located directly off of IH 35/US 83 between W Calton Road and W Mann Road. The rate is going to be \$65 a night plus taxes. When you call to make your reservation, ask to speak with Stacy Fritz (her extension is 326) and mention to her that you are with the Houston Ornithology Group. I have ten rooms blocked out. Please plan on getting there before 7:30 p.m. on Thursday April 10th. We will be meeting in the hotel lobby to go to dinner at 7:30 and I will let everybody know at that point what time they will need to be ready to go the next morning. It will be early. If you can't make the dinner, please contact me so that I can let you know when and where to meet us Friday morning. If you are interested in going on this trip, please let me know. *(For details, including itinerary and target bird species, see the OG website. -Editor)*

~ Adam Wood, OG Field Trip Coordinator, birdsondabrain@earthlink.net, 713-515-1692

Trip Report: Chappell Hill, Washington County

Seventeen participants braved the cold weather and came out to enjoy a nice full day of birding with Darrell Vollert in Washington County. The early morning rain gave way to clear skies and an absolutely lovely day, although it was very cold during the morning. We started at a cemetery, where we found a nice-sized flock of Cedar Waxwings, a stunning male Pine Warbler, a beautiful adult Red-shouldered Hawk and a few Eastern Bluebirds. The rest of the morning was spent driving and birding along Old Chappell Hill Road. We stopped at several locations, getting different sparrows at each location. The highlights were finding a Harris's Sparrow, a couple of Lark Sparrows, several Vesper Sparrows, hearing a Western Meadowlark sing briefly, a Palm Warbler (second county record), and having a flock of seven Canada/Cackling Geese fly over. There were lots of Meadowlarks flying around with varying degrees of white on their outer tail feathers. While the amount of white on the outer tail feathers can be variable in Eastern Meadowlarks and should not be the only field mark used when trying to identify a meadowlark, I am sure that several of the meadowlarks were in fact Westerns.

Once it got to be nearly one o'clock we picked up and headed for lunch at a local country

restaurant in Brenham. After lunch we stopped at a house where we had permission to bird the back yard. This was one of the best stops of the day. All participants got great looks at a female Red-breasted Nuthatch that put on a show for us, and a few got decent looks at a Brown Creeper and a female Rufous Hummingbird. Darrell informed us that he has recorded 30 species of warblers in that back yard and a total of 134 different species. Pretty incredible! It is a nice yard with several Pecan Trees and a fair amount of Shrimp Plant for the hummers, as well as bird feeders, of course.

Unfortunately, I had to leave the group when we finished birding the yard and were headed to a pine forest. However, a report from Darrell said that they found a Le Conte's Sparrow and had two American Woodcocks displaying right in front of the group. One was so close that one participant said they could see the beak open when the Woodcock gave the classic "Bent" call before taking to the sky. It was quite the way to end the day. We saw 65 species on the day, which is higher than I would have guessed considering the conditions. A big thanks goes to Darrell Vollert for leading this trip.

--Adam Wood

Trip Report: Winter Quarterly Trip to Calhoun County including Guadalupe Delta WMA

Seventeen participants enjoyed a nice weekend of birding in Calhoun and Refugio Counties. We were greeted by nasty conditions (cold and drizzly) on Friday but ended under great conditions (sunny and around 65 degrees) on Sunday evening. We were fortunate to have several well-known locals who are terrific birders help us out during the trip: Brent Ortego, Diane Nunley, Petra Hockey and Brush Freeman.

We started the trip off by meeting Brent early Friday morning in the Mission Lake Unit of the Guadalupe Delta Wildlife Management Area to listen for rails. The Guadalupe Delta WMA is not open to the public unless by prior arrangement. After listening to rails and watching herons, egrets and ibis flying in from their roosts, we scoped out a large wetland for ducks and shorebirds. After that

we went over to another wetland and found our only Tree Swallow of the trip. At the boat ramp where we parked our cars we were greeted by four Couch's Kingbirds, and got to see Cave Swallows fly out from under the nearby bridge. Sally, Jennifer and Karen found the first really good bird of the trip, a Groove-billed Ani, but unfortunately it could not be re-located. We then walked along a road on the other side of the Mission Unit of the WMA, where those who stayed close to Brent were rewarded by finding a Black-and-White Warbler.

After lunch we birded the Hynes Bay and Guadalupe River Units of the Guadalupe Delta WMA. In spite of the cold and drizzly conditions (it hovered between 41 and 44 degrees all day long), we were able to locate 101 species on the day.

The next two days were spent birding entirely in eastern Calhoun County. Saturday morning we met Diane along SH 238 near our first birding location, Coloma Creek, where we were looking for the Seaside and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows. We pished and pished and squeaked and squeaked but all we managed to get were two brief glimpses of a pair of Seaside Sparrows pretty far out in the *Spartina*. However, most of the participants got their best looks at several Marsh Wrens. We stopped along FM 1289 to scope out a large water impoundment from the back of Diane's truck, and added our only Lesser Scaup for the trip as well as some Ruddy Ducks. On our way along SH 316, a large flock of geese surprised us; the majority were Ross's, and we actually had to work to find Snow Geese. Also, along SH 316 we got great looks at a pair of White-tailed Hawks including a brief look at them copulating. We then made it to Magic Ridge to look for the Black-throated Sparrow that had been found on the Guadalupe Delta Christmas Bird Count. We walked all around the cemetery but came up with nothing. Shortly after arriving back at the cars, Bernice spotted a bird flying down to the ground behind a yucca and a prickly pear cactus. Shortly after I began playing the Black-throated Sparrow tape, the bird popped up and perched on top of the yucca. It had a clean white breast and I knew instantly that that was our bird. After all that, we found out that Odie, who had stayed at the cars, had been watching the sparrow the whole time.

After lunch in Port Lavaca, Diane had to leave us, and I took the group to Alamo Beach and on a drive along the beach from Magnolia Beach to Indianola along North Ocean Drive to finish off the day. We found our first Common Loons of the trip off Alamo Beach, as well as 75-80 Common

Goldeneye spread out as far as we could see. We wound up seeing about 90 species on the day.

The next morning we were greeted by dense fog as we headed back to Magic Ridge, this time to bird the wetlands in the tract of land the Texas Ornithological Society recently purchased with help from the Houston Audubon Society. A couple of us did manage to get a glimpse of a Black Rail as it flushed from just off the side of the road. I played tape at an opening in the reeds at the edge of the road for both Sora and Virginia Rail, and a few of the group got looks at both these rails as they strolled through the opening about four feet from the tip of my boot.

At Port O'Connor we were warmly greeted by Petra, her husband, and Brush Freeman. Petra allowed the group to view the hummingbird feeders in her back yard where we saw the female Rufous and a juvenile male Rufous\Allen Hummingbird that Petra said had been hanging around for several weeks. Petra and Brush then took us to two locations where we could scope out the beach and showed us the Lesser Black-backed Gulls that have been around for most of the winter. After that we went to grab a late lunch, then headed straight back to the motel to get the rest of the cars and continue to Brent Ortego's property to look at his hummingbirds to end off a great trip. At Brent's house we saw Buff-bellied and Rufous Hummingbirds.

Overall we saw 148 birds on the trip-- two shy of the 150 mark I was hoping to reach. This was an absolutely fantastic trip that would not have been possible without everybody's help including our wonderful guides. A special thanks goes to Brent and Petra for allowing us to visit and bird on their property. -- Adam Wood

Clearing House -- January 2008

David Sarkozi david@sarkozi.net 713-412-4409

This is a summary of birds reported to eBird.org. Unusual birds are in bold. Location detail on unusual birds is in the following format: Location[County]:date. There were 197 species reported for the Upper Texas Coast (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Jefferson Counties) for January 2008 from 284 checklists.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck reports=12 total= 310
**Fulvous Whistling-Duck reports=1 total= 1 –
 Herman Park[H]:13**
 Greater White-fronted Goose reports=17 total= 1,030
 Snow Goose reports=23 total= 25,153
 Ross's Goose reports=5 total= 47
 Cackling Goose reports=2 total= 30

**Canada Goose reports=3 total= 49 – Katy
 Prairie[H]:1, San Bernard NWR[B]: 5, Katy
 Prairie[H]:5, Anahuac NWR[C]:11**
 Wood Duck reports=6 total= 18
 Gadwall reports=26 total= 1,254
 American Wigeon reports=8 total= 108
 Mallard reports=15 total= 136
 Mottled Duck reports=15 total= 119

Blue-winged Teal reports=22 total= 476
 Northern Shoveler reports=42 total= 2,950
 Northern Pintail reports=25 total= 9,987
 Green-winged Teal reports=26 total= 1,686
 Canvasback reports=2 total= 3
 Redhead reports=6 total= 488
 Ring-necked Duck reports=11 total= 192
 Lesser Scaup reports=13 total= 1,154

Bufflehead reports=1 total= 3
 Common Goldeneye reports=8 total= 16
 Hooded Merganser reports=10 total= 44
 Red-breasted Merganser reports=9 total= 133
 Ruddy Duck reports=7 total= 69
 Common Loon reports=8 total= 34
 Pied-billed Grebe reports=47 total= 320
 Eared Grebe reports=6 total= 31
 Northern Gannet reports=1 total= 1
 American White Pelican reports=21 total= 994
 Brown Pelican reports=27 total= 338
 Neotropic Cormorant reports=23 total= 196
 Double-crested Cormorant reports=43 total= 585
 Anhinga reports=11 total= 32
 American Bittern reports=2 total= 2
 Great Blue Heron reports=72 total= 214
 Great Egret reports=95 total= 486
 Snowy Egret reports=66 total= 400
 Little Blue Heron reports=26 total= 57
 Tricolored Heron reports=20 total= 66
 Reddish Egret reports=5 total= 6
 Cattle Egret reports=10 total= 36
Green Heron reports=6 total= 8 – Brazoria
NWR[B]:4, Anahuac NWR[C]:7, Brazos
Bend SP[F]:12, Brazos Bend SP[F]:15,
Brazoria NWR[B]:19, EL Moore NS[H]:20,
Brazoria NWR[B]:20, Brazoria NWR[B]:29,
Brazoria NWR[B]:31
 Black-crowned Night-Heron reports=13 total= 231
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reports=2 total= 9
 White Ibis reports=37 total= 507
 White-faced Ibis reports=27 total= 926
 Roseate Spoonbill reports=21 total= 180
 Black Vulture reports=50 total= 382
 Turkey Vulture reports=60 total= 292
 Osprey reports=26 total= 48
 White-tailed Kite reports=12 total= 23
 Bald Eagle reports=8 total= 11
 Northern Harrier reports=46 total= 150
 Sharp-shinned Hawk reports=11 total= 12
 Cooper's Hawk reports=9 total= 11
 Red-shouldered Hawk reports=34 total= 47
 White-tailed Hawk reports=5 total= 5
 Red-tailed Hawk reports=66 total= 162
 Crested Caracara reports=22 total= 44
 American Kestrel reports=61 total= 155
 Merlin reports=5 total= 5
 Peregrine Falcon reports=9 total= 11
 Clapper Rail reports=7 total= 9
 King Rail reports=1 total= 1
 Sora reports=5 total= 5
 Common Moorhen reports=17 total= 195
 American Coot reports=44 total= 7,887
 Sandhill Crane reports=20 total= 722
 Black-bellied Plover reports=14 total= 121
Snowy Plover reports=3 total= 15 – Bolivar
Flats[G]:11, Bryan Beach[B]:20, Follett's
Island[B]:25, Follett's Island[B]:26
Wilson's Plover reports=2 total= 9 – Apffel
Park[G]:6, Galveston[G]:31
 Semipalmated Plover reports=3 total= 15
Piping Plover reports=5 total= 64 – Apffel
Park[G]:6, Port Bolivar Area[G]:19, San Luis
Pass[G]:20, Follett's Island[B]:25, Follett's
Island[B]:26
 Killdeer reports=75 total= 608
 American Oystercatcher reports=8 total= 37
 Black-necked Stilt reports=5 total= 60
 American Avocet reports=12 total= 9,018
 Spotted Sandpiper reports=19 total= 27
Solitary Sandpiper reports=0 total= 0 –
Galveston[G]:26
 Greater Yellowlegs reports=26 total= 150
 Willet reports=21 total= 293
 Lesser Yellowlegs reports=14 total= 69

Whimbrel reports=1 total= 8 – Brazoria
NWR[B]:27, Galveston[G]:31
 Long-billed Curlew reports=11 total= 153
 Marbled Godwit reports=7 total= 60
 Ruddy Turnstone reports=7 total= 146
 Sanderling reports=11 total= 226
 Western Sandpiper reports=8 total= 444
 Least Sandpiper reports=11 total= 226
 Dunlin reports=6 total= 80
 Short-billed Dowitcher reports=8 total= 379
 Long-billed Dowitcher reports=18 total= 1,866
 Wilson's Snipe reports=11 total= 100
 American Woodcock reports=1 total= 2
 Laughing Gull reports=40 total= 9,367
 Bonaparte's Gull reports=6 total= 315
 Ring-billed Gull reports=37 total= 1,399
 Herring Gull reports=15 total= 253
 Caspian Tern reports=5 total= 6
 Forster's Tern reports=22 total= 371
 Royal Tern reports=9 total= 140
Sandwich Tern reports=1 total= 1 – Bolivar
Flats[G]:11
 Black Skimmer reports=9 total= 1,060
 Rock Pigeon reports=25 total= 661
 Eurasian Collared-Dove reports=19 total= 100
 White-winged Dove reports=36 total= 630
 Mourning Dove reports=104 total= 624
 Inca Dove reports=10 total= 31
 Monk Parakeet reports=4 total= 16
 Barn Owl reports=1 total= 1
 Great Horned Owl reports=2 total= 2
 Barred Owl reports=3 total= 4
Ruby-throated Hummingbird reports=2 total= 2
– Anahuac[C]:8, Houston[H]:12
Black-chinned Hummingbird reports=4 total= 4
– Houston[H]:3, Lake Jackson[B]:5,
Brazoria Co[B]:20, Lake Jackson[B]:26
 Rufous Hummingbird reports=4 total= 9
Allen's Hummingbird reports=1 total= 1 –
Houston[H]:31
 Belted Kingfisher reports=42 total= 83
 Red-headed Woodpecker reports=4 total= 12
 Red-bellied Woodpecker reports=78 total= 174
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports=24 total= 33
 Downy Woodpecker reports=41 total= 76
 Northern Flicker reports=13 total= 20
 Pileated Woodpecker reports=16 total= 27
Least Flycatcher reports=1 total= 1 – San
Bernard NWR[B]:6
 Eastern Phoebe reports=70 total= 221
 Vermilion Flycatcher reports=1 total= 1
Great Kiskadee reports=2 total= 3 – Katy
Prairie[H]:1, Paul Rushing Park[H]:19, Katy
Prairie[H]:27
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports=1 total= 1 –
Anahuac NWR[C]:5
 Loggerhead Shrike reports=71 total= 257
 White-eyed Vireo reports=2 total= 2
 Blue-headed Vireo reports=13 total= 14
 Blue Jay reports=102 total= 279
 American Crow reports=58 total= 219
 Horned Lark reports=1 total= 3
Purple Martin reports=1 total= 2 – Follett's
Island[B]:26, Brazoria BWR[B]:29
 Tree Swallow reports=5 total= 30
Northern Rough-winged Swallow reports=3
total= 10 – Smith Point[C]:11, Brazoria
NWR[B]:19, JJ Mayes Wildlife Trace[C]:26
Cave Swallow reports=1 total= 50 – San Bernard
NWR[B]:20
 Carolina Chickadee reports=88 total= 273
 Tufted Titmouse reports=26 total= 81
Red-breasted Nuthatch reports=8 total= 8 –
Jesse Jones Park[H]:5, NW Harris Co[H]:6-

25, Jesse Jones Park[H]:14, Bear Creek
Park[H]:26
Brown-headed Nuthatch reports=2 total= 9 –
Kleb Woods[H]:9
 Brown Creeper reports=2 total= 3
 Carolina Wren reports=74 total= 163
 House Wren reports=28 total= 38
 Winter Wren reports=7 total= 7
 Sedge Wren reports=7 total= 27
 Marsh Wren reports=8 total= 10
 Golden-crowned Kinglet reports=3 total= 4
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet reports=79 total= 332
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports=40 total= 95
 Eastern Bluebird reports=14 total= 50
 Hermit Thrush reports=20 total= 26
 American Robin reports=32 total= 912
 Gray Catbird reports=9 total= 14
 Northern Mockingbird reports=128 total= 486
 Brown Thrasher reports=11 total= 15
 European Starling reports=69 total= 2,787
 American Pipit reports=30 total= 342
 Sprague's Pipit reports=2 total= 3
 Cedar Waxwing reports=29 total= 933
 Orange-crowned Warbler reports=61 total= 97
 Yellow-rumped Warbler reports=100 total= 841
 Pine Warbler reports=40 total= 194
 Palm Warbler reports=0 total= 0
Black-and-white Warbler reports=1 total= 1 –
San Bernard NWR[B]:11, Port Bolivar
Area[G]:19
 Common Yellowthroat reports=13 total= 22
 Wilson's Warbler reports=8 total= 10
Yellow-breasted Chat reports=1 total= 1 – San
Bernard NWR[B]:5, Anahuac[C]:8
 Chipping Sparrow reports=19 total= 501
 Field Sparrow reports=12 total= 29
 Vesper Sparrow reports=10 total= 27
 Savannah Sparrow reports=61 total= 787
 Le Conte's Sparrow reports=3 total= 14
Fox Sparrow reports=1 total= 1 – Katy
Prairie[H]:27
 Song Sparrow reports=11 total= 15
 Lincoln's Sparrow reports=17 total= 29
 Swamp Sparrow reports=26 total= 80
 White-throated Sparrow reports=26 total= 52
Harris's Sparrow reports=8 total= 15 – Katy
Prairie[H]:1, Katy Prairie[H]:2, Katy
Prairie[H]:12, Katie Paire[H]:13, Katy
Prairie[H]:16, Katy Prairie[H]:17, Katy
Praire[H]:19
 White-crowned Sparrow reports=14 total= 112
 Northern Cardinal reports=126 total= 570
Pyrrhuloxia reports=9 total= 9 – Katy
Prairie[H]:1-29
Indigo Bunting reports=1 total= 1 – West
Houston[H]:8
 Red-winged Blackbird reports=50 total= 2,075
 Eastern Meadowlark reports=41 total= 423
 Brewer's Blackbird reports=9 total= 436
 Common Grackle reports=12 total= 428
 Boat-tailed Grackle reports=6 total= 83
 Great-tailed Grackle reports=60 total= 1,086
 Brown-headed Cowbird reports=12 total= 1,192
Baltimore Oriole reports=2 total= 2 – Cullinan
Park[F]:11-31
 Purple Finch reports=5 total= 24
 House Finch reports=29 total= 59
 American Goldfinch reports=96 total= 1,344
 House Sparrow reports=45 total= 426
 Great-tailed Grackle reports=83 total= 1,694
 Brown-headed Cowbird reports=32 total= 2,326
Orchard Oriole reports=1 total= 1
 House Finch reports=18 total= 68
 American Goldfinch reports=28 total= 151
 House Sparrow reports=46 total= 532

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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