

Monthly Meeting November 2, 2015

Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX



6:30 pm Learning Corner: Red Tailed Hawk Varied Plumage by Mike Austin

7:00 pm [Ornithology Group](#) (OG) Business Meeting

7:30 pm [Program](#): Birding the Andes in Peru by Richard Gibbons

[Field Trip](#): Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge, Saturday, November 14, 8:30 AM, led by Jean Booth

[Need Help from the Club | October Anahuac NWR Field Trip Report](#)

Birding the Andes in Peru

By Richard Gibbons

Richard is the Conservation Director for Houston Audubon where he manages their sanctuaries, develops and manages monitoring programs, and advocates for bird conservation in the region.



He has worked as an ornithologist throughout the Americas for 18 years including bird banding, hawk watching, and colonial water bird management. He recently earned his PhD working at LSU's Museum of Natural Science where he split his time between coordinating citizen science projects and studying birds, wetlands, and climate change in Peru's high Andes. The trip was five three-month expeditions to the puna ecosystem, the tundra like region above the tree line and below snowline. Working with Peruvian scientists, we studied the unique wetlands, the birds, and the potential effects of climate change on this poorly understood ecosystem.



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Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge Field Trip

Saturday, November 14, 8:30 AM

Led by Jean Booth

Meet at 8:30 at the refuge visitor center. Will start with the Big Slough Boardwalk & Trail then head out on the auto tour. If you have walkie talkies please bring them.

Lunch after the auto tour then as time permits we can explore other hotspots in the vicinity.

Big Slough Boardwalk & Trail (0.6 miles)

The boardwalk over the slough provides a close encounter with a lovely marsh crowned with spiky cattail and bulrush which offer renowned wildlife viewing and photography. The trail winds through low forests of yaupon and small clearings to an observation platform.

Big Slough Auto Tour (7.5 miles)

The auto tour runs through the Big Slough Recreation Area, the heart of the Brazoria NWR. Visit a salt marsh observation deck. Teal and Rogers Pond observation platforms offer panoramic

views of waterfowl congregations, wading and shore birds. A self-guided audio tour CD and brochure is available at the information pavilion. Bicycling is permitted on the gravel road.

Middle Bayou Trail (2 miles)

Refuge visitors can hike or bike an elevated trail that follows an abandoned railway line. The trail starts at the Bastrop Bayou Fishing Area with visitors enjoying views across the rare bluestem coastal prairie.

Directions

From the intersection of SH 288 and FM 523 in Angleton, take FM 523 to SH 2004 intersection, continue on FM 523 for 5.5 miles to CR227, turn left, go 1.7 miles to Brazoria NWR gate at your right. The Brazoria NWR is located 10 miles east of Lake Jackson.

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Need Help from the Club

By Joann Raine

I am the program planner for the OG and try to have an interesting speaker every month. I would welcome any suggestions for contacts. Just send me an email or call the number listed in your member booklet.

More of a reason to write this note is that the Learning Corner needs some help from the membership. We need to draw on our own friends to agree to prepare a short and uncomplicated 20 minute conversation with the club members about a specific bird or birding topic. No photos needed, but we do have the projector. I think that a little research on a bird or an article from a magazine with that topic would be great.

I am asking for some members to agree to pick a month and provide this part of the meeting. You can start to Learning Corner at 6:30 and still leave time for a short business meeting before the main speaker. I am looking forward to your response.

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October Anahuac NWR Field Trip

By Liz Garney

We started at the Visitors Center and parked the cars and immediately sighted a Vermillion Flycatcher. We then walked around the pond near the Center to give time for everyone to arrive.

Then we started our auto tour of Shoveler Pond. Some highlights were a White-tailed Kite, female Indigo Bunting, and Marsh Wren. After a short break we headed to Frozen Point Road where we were entertained by an American Bittern standing about one foot from the side of the road, head up and neck extended. It sat in a squatted position for a while and then decided to do

“the crawl” slowly across the road right in front of our cars and what a site it was. We also had close looks at Northern Harrier in the fields.



We then went back to the Visitors Center for lunch, met another birder who had seen a Barred Owl at Skillern Tract so we headed out. We parked on the grass lot at the entrance to Skillern Tract and walked along the wooded area west of the road and followed the East Bay Bayou all the way to the main parking lot. Highlights included Crested Caracara, Fulvous Whistling Ducks and Anhinga, American Avocet, Belted Kingfisher and Wilson’s Snipe along with other species.

Our species count totaled 62 for the day. Fun was had by all!

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Texas Birding Events, Fall 2015

Compiled by Nina Rach, updated 8 Oct 2015

[please send corrections and additions to NRach@AutreVie.com]

Oct – all month, every day, 8:30-11:30am, Fall Hawk Watch at Bentsen State Park. Info: 956-584-9156

Oct 21 – Wed - *Lunch with the Birds* walk, Nature Discovery Center, Bellaire, 12:00noon - 1:15pm

Oct 21 – Wed – Galveston County Audubon Group – monthly meeting, Moody Gardens, 6:30 social

Oct 22 – Thurs – Guided bird walk at Bear Creek Pioneers Park. Meet at community center 8:30 am.

Oct 22 – Thurs – Kleb Woods' Intro to Birding series, class 2 of 4, 3:00-4:00pm:
Intro to Birding: Diversity of Birds

Oct 22 – Thurs – “Nature Rocks” event at Houston Polo Club, Nature Conservancy fund-raiser, 6:30-10:30pm

<http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/events/houston-2015-gala.xml>

Oct 24 – Sat – Baker Sanctuary Hike, Jackie Arnold Educ. Center, Leander, 8-11am (Travis Audubon members)

<http://travisaudubon.org/audubonevent/baker-sanctuary-saturday-hikes-members-only-2>

Oct 24 – Sat – Galveston County Audubon Group field trip

Oct 24 – Sat – Houston Audubon field trip to the Katy Prairie (Bob Honig, Kathie & Al Shultz), 2:30-7pm

<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/act/newsletter.aspx/category/Field+Trips/MenuGroup/Birding/NewsLetterID/2246/startrow/3.htm>

Oct 24 – Sat – “Secret Life of Pigeons” at Trinity River Audubon Center, Dallas, 1:00pm

<http://trinityriver.audubon.org/events/secret-life-pigeons>

Oct 25 - Sun – Songbird Supper, Trinity River Audubon Center, Dallas, 5:00-8:30pm

<http://trinityriverauduboncenter.ticketleap.com/songbirdsupper/>

Oct 28 – Wed – Archbishop Fiorenza Park Bird Survey, 8am

<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/1152/MenuGroup/Birding.htm>

Oct 28 – Wed - *Lunch with the Birds* walk, Nature Discovery Center, Bellaire, 12:00noon - 1:15pm

Oct 29 – Thurs – Kleb Woods' Intro to Birding series, class 3 of 4, 3:00-4:00pm:

Intro to Birding: Using field marks to identify birds.

Oct 31-Nov 1 – Sat-Sun – Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS) Visitors' Weekend, San Jacinto County; camping permitted. Owned by Houston Outdoor Nature Club, located NW of Cleveland; entrance off FM 945.

www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf

Oct 31-Nov 3 – Texas Butterfly Festival, Mission; <http://www.texasbutterflyfestival.com/>

Nov 2 – Mon- Texas Pelagic trip through the RGVBF, 6:30am-6:30pm (12-hours, \$200), South Padre Island.

Nov 2 – Mon – OG Nov meeting, Bayland Community Center. Speaker: Richard Gibbons, Houston Audubon, “Birding the Andes in Peru.”

Nov 3 - Tues – Coastal Bend Audubon Soc. Meeting, So. Texas Bot. Gardens, Corpus Christi, 7pm
<http://www.coastalbendaudubon.org/activities.html>

Nov 4 – Wed - *Lunch with the Birds* walk, Nature Discovery Center, Bellaire, 12:00noon - 1:15pm

Nov 4-8 – 22nd Annual Rio Grande Valley Birding Festival, Harlingen; <http://www.rgvbf.org/>

Nov 5 – Thurs – Kleb Woods’ Intro to Birding series, final class, 3:00-4:00pm:
Intro to Birding: Where to go birding

Nov 7 - Sat – Bolivar Flats Beach Ramble, 10am
<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/1131/MenuGroup/Bolivar.htm>

Nov 14 – Sat – OG monthly field trip – destination to be announced (Mad Island Marsh?)

Nov 14 – Sat – Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Count, Austin, 7:00-10:30am. Contact Eric Carpenter.

Nov 17 – Tues - Houston Audubon Senior bus trip to Mercer Arboretum, 9am

Nov 18 – Wed – Archbishop Fiorenza Park Bird Survey, 8am
<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/1152/MenuGroup/Birding.htm>

Nov 18 – Wed – “Owls of Texas,” program at Kleb Woods nature center, 1:30-3:30pm

Nov 19 – Thurs - Monthly bird count at Baytown Nature Center, with David Hanson and Chuck Davis.

Nov 19 – Thurs – Guided bird walk at Bear Creek Pioneers Park. Meet at community center 8:30 am.

Nov 20 - Fri – Kleb Woods senior birding trip to ... Matagorda! 7am-7pm

Nov 21-22 – Sat-Sun – Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS) Visitors’ Weekend, San Jacinto County; camping permitted. Owned by Houston Outdoor Nature Club, located NW of Cleveland; entrance off FM 945.
www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf

Nov 21 – Sat - Bird banding at GCBO, Lake Jackson, 8-noon; Gulf Coast Young Ornithologists 9am

Nov 21 – Sat – Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Walk, 7:30-11:00am. Contact: coordinator@hornsbybend.org

Nov 21 – Sat – Hueco Tanks State Park birding hike, El Paso, 8:30am-1:30pm; <http://texasmountaintrail.com/events/hueco-tanks-birding-hike>

Nov 28 – Sat – “Secret Life of Pigeons” at Trinity River Audubon Center, Dallas, 1:00pm <http://www.klydewarrenpark.org/Things-To-Do/events/the-secret-life-of-pigeons.html>

Dec 1 - Tues – Coastal Bend Audubon Soc. Meeting, So. Texas Bot. Gardens, Corpus Christi, 7pm <http://www.coastalbendaudubon.org/activities.html>

Dec 2 – Wed – “Duck Identification,” program at Kleb Woods nature center, 1:30-3:30pm

Dec 4 - Fri – Kleb Woods senior birding trip to...East Texas! 7am – 7pm

Dec 5 - Sat – Bolivar Flats Beach Ramble, 10am <http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/1131/MenuGroup/Bolivar.htm>

Dec 5 - Sat - Davis Mountains Preserve, Open Day 8-4 (Nature Conservancy), 25 mi NW of Ft. Davis; <http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/events/davis-mountains-preserve-2015-events-schedule.xml>

Dec 7 – Mon – OG Dec meeting, Bayland Community Center. Speaker: Dan Brooks, HMNS, “Houston Exotics.”

Dec 10 – Thurs – Houston Audubon Senior bus trip to Brazoria NWR, 9am

Dec 11-13 – Galveston – “Holiday with the Cranes,” organized by Galveston Island Nature Tourism Council <http://www.galvestonnaturetourism.org/holidaywiththecranes.asp>

Dec 12 – Sat – Hornsby Bend Monthly Bird Count, Austin, 7:00-10:30am. Contact Eric Carpenter.

Dec 12 – Sat - Davis Mountains Preserve, Open Day (Nature Conservancy), 25 mi NW of Ft. Davis

Dec 13 – Sat – “Every Crane Counts,” Volunteer at Galveston Bay Foundation’s Sweetwater Preserve, Stewart Rd & 103rd St., 1-5pm (12 yrs and older)

Dec 14, 2015 – Jan 5, 2016: 115th Annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs)

Info will be available at:

<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/827/MenuGroup/CBC.htm>

Dec 14 – Sun – Matagorda County- Mad Island Marsh CBC (TXMM) – mostly on private land.
Compiler: Brent Ortego, brent.ortego@tpwd.texas.gov or 361-648-9773 cell

Dec 14 – Coastal Tip of Texas CBC (TXCT) – Compiler: Marion Mason, marion_mason@fws.gov , 956-748-3607 ext. 119.

Dec 16 – Wed – Archbishop Fiorenza Park Bird Survey, 8am
<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/1152/MenuGroup/Birding.htm>

Dec 17 – Thurs – Guided bird walk at Bear Creek Pioneers Park. Meet at community center 8:30 am.

Dec 17 – Thurs - Guadalupe River delta CBC (TXGF) - 15 miles of the lower end of Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers, near their junction between Green Lake and Tivoli, TX. Contact Brent Ortego, brent.ortego@tpwd.texas.gov or 361-648-9773 cell.

Dec 17 – Thurs – Love Creek CBC (TXLC) – Bandera Co., includes The Nature Conservancy's Love Creek Preserve and TPWD's Lost Maples SNA. Contact either Martin Hagne at martinhagne@sbcglobal.net or Rebecca Flack at rflack@tnc.org

Dec 18 – Fri – L Sal Vieja CBC (TXLS) - Valley Salt Lakes area in northeastern Hidalgo County and southwestern Willacy County. Compiler: JD Cortez, jorgedcortez@yahoo.com.

Dec 19 – Sat – Spring Creek CBC (TXSC) – centered in The Woodlands, sponsored by the **Piney Woods Wildlife Society**. Compiler: Claire Moore at cdmoore3i@gmail.com

Dec 19 – Sat - Bird banding at GCBO, Lake Jackson, 8-noon; Gulf Coast Young Ornithologists 9am

Dec 19 – Sat – College Station CBC (TXCS) - Compiler, Betty Vermeire at bavermeire@suddenlink.net (cell 979-324-6654).

Dec 19 – Sat – Bell Co. CBC (TXBU) - Sponsored by **Twin Lakes Audubon Society**. Contact Tom Robbins at thos.robbins@sbcglobal.net

Dec 19 – Sat – Hueco Tanks State Park birding hike, El Paso, 8:30am-1:30pm;
<http://texasmountaintrail.com/events/hueco-tanks-birding-hike>

Dec 19 – Sat – Brownsville CBC (TXBV) – includes 8 sections. New compiler this year, TBD.

Dec 19 – Sat – Santa Ana CBC (TXSA) - count circle includes Alamo, San Juan, Hidalgo, Pharr, much of McAllen and a bit of Donna. Contact Gisela Chapa, gisela_chapa@fws.gov , telephone (956) 784-7541.

Dec 22 – Aransas NWR CBC (TXAR) - contact Paul Swacina
at pswacina@regencyhealthcare.com

Dec 24 – Thurs – Buffalo Lake CBC (TXBL) – in the Panhandle! compiler Joe Cepeda
at jcepeda@mail.wtamu.edu

Dec 25 – Fri – Hueco Tanks CBC (TXHT) - Richard Hermosillo at
Richard.V.Hermosillo@xcelenergy.com.

Dec 27 – Sun – Laredo CBC (TXLD) - Compiler Glenda Barrera, 956-286-5876.

Dec 28 – Mon – Old River CBC (TXOR) - ??

Dec 30 – Wed – Trinity River CBC (TXTN) – northern Liberty County. Compiler is Stuart Marcus
at 936-336-9786 or stuart_marcus@fws.gov

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Jan 1 – Fri – Cypress Creek CBC – contact klebwoods@pct3.com

Jan 1 – Fri – Bastrop-Buescher State Park CBC (TXBB) – Compilers Laurie Foss and Sheila
Hargis, bastroptxcbc@gmail.com

Jan 1 – Fri – Anzalduas-Bentsen CBC (TXAZ) – Rio Grande Valley - Compiler Melissa
Chadwick, Melissa.Chadwick@tpwd.texas.gov, tel 956-584-9156.

Jan 2 – Sat - Brazoria-Columbia Bottomlands CBC (TXBR) - includes Bar-X Ranch, Columbia
Lakes, Hudson Woods unit of SBNWR, Brazoria Reservoir, Harris Reservoir, and southern Nash Ranch.
Compiler: Tom Taroni at 979-297-5563 or taronitom@gmail.com.

Jan 2 – Sat – Harlingen CBC (TX HG) – Rio Grande Valley, Compiler Norma
Friedrich, acaskiskadee@yahoo.com, 956-428-2603.

Jan 4 – Mon – OG monthly meeting, Bayland Community Center, Reports from the Christmas
Bird Counts!

Jan 14-17 – Texas Ornithological Society Winter Meeting, McKinney, Collin Co., north of
Dallas.

Details to be announced.

Jan 16-17 – Sat-Sun – Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS) Visitors' Weekend, San Jacinto
County; camping permitted. Owned by Houston Outdoor Nature Club, located NW of Cleveland;
entrance off FM 945.

www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf

Feb 1 – Mon – OG monthly meeting, Bayland Community Center, Speaker: Cin Ty Lee, “Gulls & Terns of Texas”

Feb 3-6 – Laredo Birding Festival – www.laredobirdingfestival.com

Feb 6 – Sat – Sparrow Fest at Balcones Canyonlands NWR, <http://www.friendsofbalcones.org/sf>

Feb 13 – Sat – OG Monthly Field Trip – Katy Prairie – afternoon – led by Bob Honig and Steve Gast

Feb 20-21 - Sat-Sun – Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS) Visitors’ Weekend, San Jacinto County; camping permitted. Owned by Houston Outdoor Nature Club, located NW of Cleveland; entrance off FM 945.

www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf

Feb 25-28 – 20th annual Whooping Crane Festival, www.whoopingcranefestival.org Port Aransas – www.portaransas.org

March 4-5 – Fri-Sat – Marsh Madness Sandhill Crane Festival, Linton, Indiana.

March 7 – Mon – OG monthly meeting, Bayland Community Center, Speaker: Patrick Walthur, “Bird studies and future plans for Anahuac NWR.”

March 11-13 – Spring Photography weekend at Mo-Ranch, Hunt, Texas – will emphasize bird photography

March 17-20 – Audubon’s Nebraska Crane Festival, www.nebraskacranefestival.org

March 19-20 – Sat-Sun – Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS) Visitors’ Weekend, San Jacinto County; camping permitted. Owned by Houston Outdoor Nature Club, located NW of Cleveland; entrance off FM 945.

www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf

March 26 – Sat -OG field trip – Mad Island Marsh Preserve – Clive Runnells Family – Smithsonian crew is banding

April 4 – Mon – OG monthly meeting, Bayland Community Center, Speaker: Glenn Olsen, “American Woodpeckers”

April 8-10 – Nebraska Prairie Chicken Festival, Burwell, NE, www.nebraskaprairiechickens.com

Mid-April – 22nd Attwater Prairie Chicken Festival, Attwater NWR, http://www.fws.gov/refuge/attwater_prairie_chicken/

April 13-19 – Wed-Tues - Lesser *Prairie-Chicken Festival*, Woodward, OK, www.lektreks.org

April 14-17 – Thurs-Sun - 14th Annual Galveston FeatherFest (new – moved to third weekend)

April 16-17 – Sat-Sun – Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS) Visitors' Weekend, San Jacinto County; camping permitted. Owned by Houston Outdoor Nature Club, located NW of Cleveland; entrance off FM 945.

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April 22-24 – Fri-Sun – Balcones Songbird Festival, Balcones Canyonlands NWR – registration opens 2/15/16

May 2 – Mon – OG monthly meeting, Bayland Community Center, Speaker: _____

May 6-15 – The Biggest Week in American Birding, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, Magee Marsh and Ottawa NWR in NW Ohio, www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com

May 21-22 – Sat-Sun – Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary (LTNS) Visitors' Weekend, San Jacinto County; camping permitted. Owned by Houston Outdoor Nature Club, located NW of Cleveland; entrance off FM 945.

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About the Ornithology Group

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

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