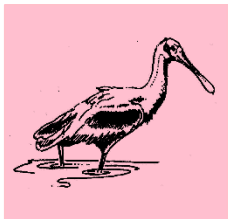


## Monthly Meeting December 7, 2015

**Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX**



**6:30 pm Holiday Social:** Join us for a mixer with your fellow members. Snacks and soft drinks provided. Wear a name tag to introduce yourself.

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

**7:30 pm [Program](#): Patterns and Trends of Invasive Birds in Texas by Dan Brooks**

**[Field Trip](#):** No field trip this month; please participate in a Christmas bird count

**[Letter from the Chair | November Brazoria NWR Field Trip Report](#)**

**[No Respect](#) | [Texas Birding Events](#)**

## Patterns and Trends of Invasive Birds in Texas

**By Dan Brooks**

Daniel Brooks has been Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Houston Museum of Natural Science since 1999. He was the point-Curator in building the latest versions of the Farish Hall of Texas Wildlife (2014) and Frensley-Graham Hall of African Wildlife (2004), as well as the recently completed Vintage Texas Wildlife Dioramas (2014) and Glassell Hall of Tropical Marine Biology (2013).

Most of his research revolves around discovery – both of formerly unexplored pristine places, and describing new species of mammals and birds. Although he has worked in over 20 countries around the globe, his research has focused predominately in the Neotropics, with an emphasis in the lowlands east of the Andes, in Peru, Bolivia, and Paraguay. Since 1985, Brooks has been involved in over 50 research projects, has served as chief editor for seven books, and has co/authored 25 book chapters and 100 scientific articles. On the local level, Brooks coordinates two Citizen Science Projects studying local birds, both of which enlist local citizen bird-watchers to collect data.

He received his Master's degree in 1993 focusing on ecology, distribution, and natural history of large mammals in the Paraguayan Chaco, while his Ph.D. was received in 1998 and focused on community ecology of birds in Texas and the Neotropics.

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## Letter from the Chair

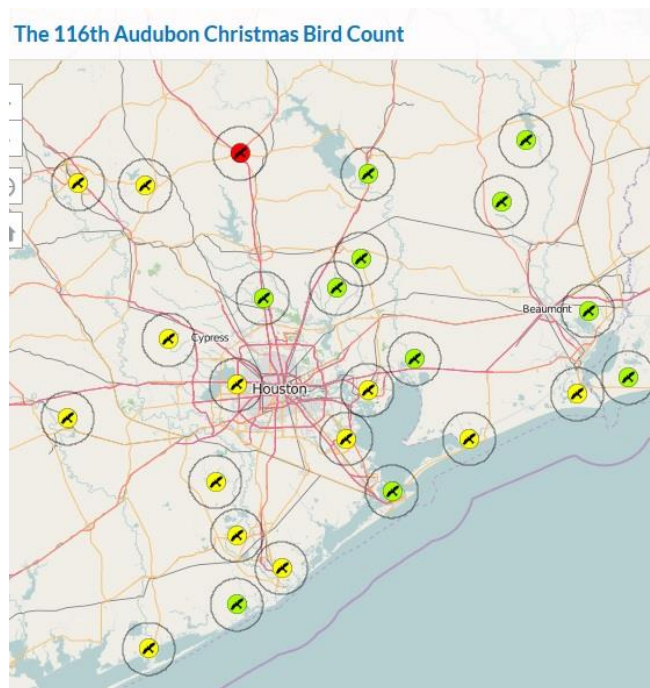
As the year draws to a close, I'd like to thank everyone for their continued membership and participation in the Ornithology Group. We try to offer a variety of programs and field trip opportunities and we're always looking for new ideas and volunteers to help make them happen.

The 116<sup>th</sup> annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count season approaches! There are many opportunities to participate in CBC 116; see the map for the layout of count circles nearest Houston. If you happen to live within a count circle, you can watch feeders at home or report bird activity in your neighborhood. Or you can arrange to walk/drive a designated area for a full or partial day. You may also consider signing up to help with a CBC you have not tried before.

Watch for more news about our January field trip. Also coming up in January (14-17) is the Texas Ornithological Society (TOS) Winter Meeting, in McKinney, TX.

Best wishes to you and yours through the holidays,

**Nina Rach**



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## November Brazoria NWR Field Trip

**By Jean Booth**

The OG field trip to Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge November 14 was led by Skip Almoney and attended by 14 OG members. We started at by taking the Big Slough Boardwalk and Trail and afterwards started on the Big Slough Auto Tour. We had 60 total species for the day.

Highlight species on the Boardwalk and Trail included - Marsh and Winter Wren, Hermit Thrush, Common Yellowthroat, 8 Robins, Swamp Sparrow, and Osprey . Highlight species on the Auto Tour included - Horned Grebe, American Widgeon, Redhead, Ruddy Duck, Sedge Wren, Merlin, Nelson's Sparrow, and Snow Goose. The best species of the day was the Horned Grebe and we enjoyed watching it surrounded by the other ducks and grebes. It sure stood out in the crowd. We also got great looks at a Peregrine Falcon that flew almost directly over us. Weather was great and we had a great morning.

There will be no field trip in December and we encourage you to participate in your favorite CBC. The January Field Trip is Sunday January 24 and we are talking with Stephan Lorenz to be our guide either in January or February.

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*Pied-billed Grebes, such as the adult and chick here, deserve more attention than they get. (Photo 1)*

## No Respect

**By Hart Rufe (First Published November 1, 2015 by Hart Beat and St. Lucie Audubon Society; reprinted with permission)**

The comedian, Rodney Dangerfield, created a career by claiming he got no respect. He had a long list of one line self-deprecating examples to explain his claim, “I looked up my family tree and found that I was the sap,” or “On Halloween, when I open the door for trick or treaters, they give me all their candy and run.”

Sometimes in nature there are common every day organisms that get no respect: think poison ivy, most snakes, or groundhogs. With birds, one candidate is the Pied-billed Grebe. How often have we heard on a field trip the offhand comment, “Oh, it’s just another Pied-billed Grebe” and then hurried off to find a more spectacular bird. Actually, almost any bird is regarded as “more spectacular.” The poor Pied-billed Grebe gets no respect.

The rock star of grebes is the Western Grebe. If you doubt me, check out this video; (make sure your sound is on, and go full screen): [youtu.be/ZbRrxw-H6xA](https://youtu.be/ZbRrxw-H6xA). But Western Grebes or their close cousins, the Clark’s Grebe, are not likely to be found in Florida, and certainly the walking on water mating dance in the video can only be observed west of the Mississippi River.

When the Eared Grebe, (photo 2) another western species, showed up at Green Cay in 2007, birders came from all over the state to see it, completely disrespecting all the Pied-billed Grebes in the area. Horned Grebes are regularly found in Florida in the winter, and are usually quite exciting to find, even in their mundane winter regalia (photo 3 at MINWR), instead of their much more striking breeding plumage, which they don on their north-bound migration (partial plumage, photo 4 at Chincoteague, VA). Perhaps it is size that makes Horned Grebes more respected, for while the Horned Grebe is smaller than ducks and coots (), the Pied-billed Grebe is smaller still. ()





*Eared Grebe (2)*



*Horned Grebe (3)*

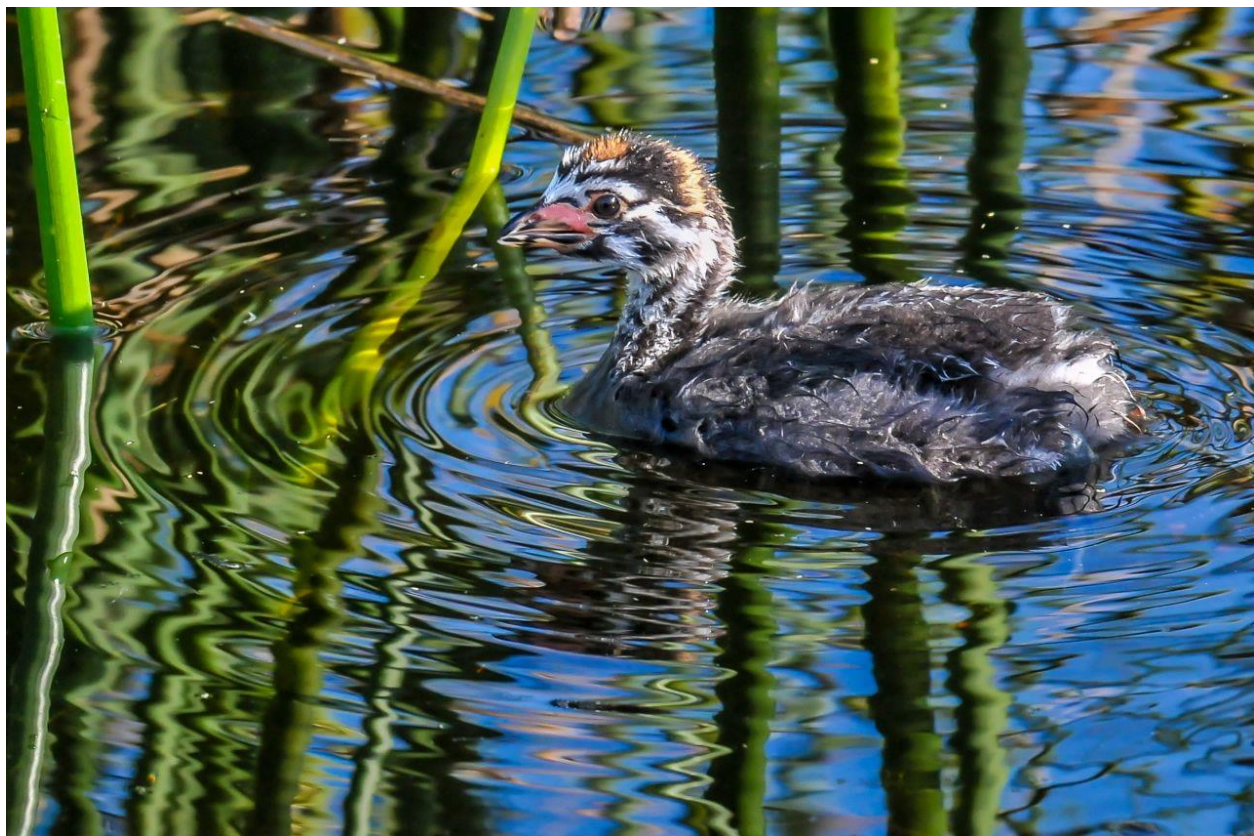


*Horned Grebe (4)*



But while scores of juvenile Pied-billed Grebes, without the signature black ring around the bill that gives the species its name, are found on the east coast all winter, the adult breeding plumaged Pied-billed Grebe, with the black pied ring around the white bill and the black throat patch can be quite striking. Yet, that might not get the bird the respect it deserves.

One last consideration: as many juvenile and adult Pied-billed Grebes as we see in the field, it is not often that we find the very young birds that are kept well-hidden and concealed from predators. (photo 1) The very young, with their harlequin face, head and neck are quite striking, (below) and I suspect if the adults sported the same appearance, birders would find them more beautiful and perhaps afford them some respect. Just think how much love we give Harlequin Ducks.



Rodney Dangerfield had one bird related one-liner: “Owls are smarter than chickens, who ever heard of a Kentucky Fried Owl?” In that manner he certainly respected owls. Perhaps birders will think more kindly of “just another Pied-billed Grebe” and remember that for a short while, in its infancy, the bird was spectacular. At least with baby Pied-billed Grebes, Rodney Dangerfield’s line about his own birth would not apply: “When I was born, I was so ugly, the doctor slapped my mother.”

For more information on how Western Grebes “walk on water,” see: [news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/04/150422-western-clarks-grebe-water-dance-rushing-animal-behavior-science/](https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2015/04/150422-western-clarks-grebe-water-dance-rushing-animal-behavior-science/). For another Western Grebe mating video,

see: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=-O8\\_DMfPJus](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-O8_DMfPJus).

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## About the Ornithology Group

Chair (Interim): Nina Rach | 281-433-0651 | [NRach@autrevie.com](mailto:NRach@autrevie.com)

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

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

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## Texas Birding Events in the following section:



## Upcoming Texas Birding events

**Compiled by Nina Rach, updated 27 Nov 2015**

**[please send corrections and additions to [NRach@AutreVie.com](mailto:NRach@AutreVie.com)]**

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 – Powderhorn Ranch 2<sup>nd</sup> annual winter bird census, Calhoun County

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 – Hogg Bird Sanctuary monthly survey

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 – High Island Work Day, Houston Audubon

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 & 103<sup>rd</sup> St., 1-5pm (12 yrs and older)

**Dec 14, 2015 – Jan 5, 2016: 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs)**

**Sign up at: <http://netapp.audubon.org/cbc/public/>**

Info available at:

<http://www.houstonaudubon.org/default.aspx/MenuItemID/1149/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](mailto:brent.ortego@tpwd.texas.gov) or 361-648-9773 cell

Dec 14 – Sun – Port Aransas CBC (TXPA)

Dec 14 – Sun - Coastal Tip of Texas CBC (TXCT) – Compiler: Marion Mason, [marion\\_mason@fws.gov](mailto:marion_mason@fws.gov) , 956-748-3607 ext. 119.

Dec 14 – Sun – Johnson Bayou CBC (LAJB) – southwest Louisiana

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Dec 15 – Mon – Galveston CBC (TXGA)

Dec 15 – Mon - Balcones CBC, sponsored by the Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR. The circle includes all the tracts of the Balcones Canyonlands National Wildlife Refuge and the surrounding area. Interested? Go to <http://friendsofbalcones.org/cbc> or email Cathy and John Harrington at [balconescbc@gmail.com](mailto:balconescbc@gmail.com)

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Dec 16 – Wed – Archbishop Fiorenza Park Bird Survey, Houston, 8am

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

Dec 16 – Wed – Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR CBC (TXAP)

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

Dec 17 – Thur – Bolivar Peninsula CBC (TXBP)

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](mailto: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](mailto:martinhagne@sbcglobal.net) or Rebecca Flack at [rflack@tnc.org](mailto:rflack@tnc.org)

Dec 17 – Thurs – Georgetown-Andice CBC (TXGT)

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Dec 18 – Fri – San Bernard NWR CBC (TXSB)

Dec 18 – Fri – Choke Canyon CBC (TXCK)

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

Dec 18 – Fri – Welder Wildlife Refuge CBC (TXWW) – near Sinton; contact Terry Blankenship at 361-364-2643 or email [tblankenship@welderwildlife.org](mailto:tblankenship@welderwildlife.org)

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Dec 19 – Sat – Houston CBC (TXHO) – Baytown area

Dec 19 – Sat – Brazos Bend CBC (TXBZ) – Fort Bend Co.

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](mailto:cdmoore3i@gmail.com)

Dec 19 – Sat – Armand Bayou CBC (TXAY)

Dec 19 – Sat – Turkey Creek CBC (TXTC)

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](mailto:bavermeire@suddenlink.net) (cell 979-324-6654).

Dec 19 – Sat – Lost Pines CBC (TXLP)

Dec 19 – Sat – Bell Co. CBC (TXBU) - Sponsored by [Twin Lakes Audubon Society](#). Contact Tom Robbins at [thos.robbs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thos.robbs@sbcglobal.net)

Dec 19 – Sat – Austin CBC (TXAU)

Dec 19 – Sat – Crawford CBC (TXCR) – western Waco

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 – Davis Mountains CBC (TXDM)

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

Dec 19 – Sat – Victoria CBC (TXVI) – compiler Bill Farnsworth 361-578-9745; email [farnswfw@suddenlink.net](mailto:farnswfw@suddenlink.net)

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](mailto:gisela_chapa@fws.gov), telephone (956) 784-7541.

Dec 19 – Sat – Wichita Falls CBC (TXWF)

Dec 19 – Sat – Corpus Christi CBC (TXCC)

Dec 19-20 – Sat-Sun – Uvalde County CBC (TXUC)

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Dec 20 – Sun – Corpus Christi – Flour Bluff CBC (TXCF)

Dec 20 – Sun – Freeport CBC (TXFR)

Dec 20 – Sun – San Antonio CBC

Dec 20 – Sun – Chaparral WMA CBC (TXCP)

Dec 20 – Sun – Falcon Dam and SP CBC (TXFD)

Dec 20 – Sun – Balmorhea CBC (TXBA)

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Dec 21 – Mon – Kenedy Co Wind Turbines CBC (TXKW) - This count which is centered about 25 miles south of Padre Island National Seashore headquarters will survey birds on wind tidal flats of the Laguna Madre, grasslands behind the dunes and gulf beaches. Contact compiler Brent Ortego, [brent.ortego@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:brent.ortego@tpwd.texas.gov) or 361-648-9773 cell.

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

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

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

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Dec 26 – Sat – Comstock CBC (TXCO)

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Dec 27 – Sun – Buffalo Bayou CBC (TXBF) – west Houston

Dec 27 – Sun – Palmetto State Park CBC (TXPM)

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

Dec 27 – Sun – Del Rio CBC (TXDR)

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Dec 28 – Mon – Old River CBC (TXOR)

Dec 28 – Mon – Beech Creek CBC (TXBE)

Dec 28 – Mon – Rockport CBC (TXRO)

Dec 28 – Mon – Chisos Mountains CBC (TXCM)

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Dec 29 – Tues – Gibbons Creek CBC

Dec 29 – Tues – Laguna Atascosa CBC (TXLA)

Dec 29 – Tues – Big Bend CBC (TXBG)

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

Dec 30 – Wed – Boerne CBC (TXBO)

Dec 30 – Wed – Weslaco CBC (TXWS)

## 2016

Jan 1 – Fri – Cypress Creek CBC – Katy Prairie. Contact [klebwoods@pct3.com](mailto:klebwoods@pct3.com)

Jan 1 – Fri – Orange County CBC (TXOC)

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

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

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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](mailto:taronitom@gmail.com).

Jan 2 – Sat – Burnet County CBC (TXBN)

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

Jan 2 – Sat – Kingsville CBC (TXKI) - Co-Compilers: Jim Sinclair, [sinclairjim@yahoo.com](mailto:sinclairjim@yahoo.com) and Barbara Rapstein, [barbraps@rocketmail.com](mailto:barbraps@rocketmail.com) .

Jan 2 – Sat – Waco CBC (TXWA)

Jan 2 – Sat – West Kerr County CBC (TXWK) - contact Bill Lindemann, at [billin2@beecreek.net](mailto:billin2@beecreek.net)

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Jan 3 – Sun – Sea Rim State Park CBC (TXSR)

Jan 3 – Sun – New Braunfels CBC (TXNB)

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

Jan 5 – Tues – Kerrville CBC (TXKV) - compiler Richard Redmond, [ewigeon64@Hughes.net](mailto:ewigeon64@Hughes.net), 830-460-1243

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Jan 14 – Thurs – 7pm Houston Audubon speaker, Becky Gillette, Pagosa Springs, Colorado: ‘Breeding Bird Surveys in Colorado’s Sagebrush Steppe’ at United Way Center, 50 Waugh.

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](http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf)

Jan 21 – Thurs – Baytown Nature Center Survey

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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](http://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](http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf)

Feb 25-28 – 20<sup>th</sup> annual Whooping Crane Festival, [www.whoopingcranefestival.org](http://www.whoopingcranefestival.org) Port Aransas – [www.portaransas.org](http://www.portaransas.org)

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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.nebraskacrane festival.org](http://www.nebraskacrane festival.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](http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf)

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

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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](http://www.nebraskaprairiechickens.com)

Mid-April – 22<sup>nd</sup> Attwater Prairie Chicken Festival, Attwater NWR,  
[http://www.fws.gov/refuge/attwater\\_prairie\\_chicken/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/attwater_prairie_chicken/)

April 13-19 – Wed-Tues - Lesser Prairie-Chicken Festival, Woodward, OK, [www.lektreks.org](http://www.lektreks.org)

April 14-17 – Thurs-Sun - 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

[www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS\\_route\\_map.pdf](http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf)

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

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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](http://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;

# Spoonbill

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entrance off FM 945.

[www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS\\_route\\_map.pdf](http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf)