Monthly Meeting March 7, 2016

Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX



6:30 pm <u>Learning Corner</u>: Knowing Where You're Going by Vicki Sims

7:00 pm Ornithology Group (OG) Business Meeting

7:30 pm <u>Program</u>: Bird Studies and Ongoing Plans at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge by Patrick Walthur

Field Trips: Double-Lake Recreation Area March 5, 6:30am by Mike Austin; Mad Island Marsh Preserve, April 9 and 10 (weekender), by Steve Goetz

Field Trip Reports | Dues | Texas Birding Events

Knowing Where You're Going

By Vicki Sims

I sit in an Ornithology Group meeting and hear folks talk about seeing great birds on "some road" and have no idea where they are going. It would be wonderful for folks like me to have a visual. It would also be great for the folks who didn't make the Galveston Field Trip to locate those new spots that were mentioned. Come you birders! Help put a 'pin' on county maps to show some of your favorite birding spots. We will photograph and publish our map in the next *Spoonbill*. See you there.

<u> ↑top</u>↑

Bird Studies and Ongoing Plans at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge

By Patrick Walthur

The 34,000-acre Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge is a WHSRN Site of International Importance, hosting a high numbers of Whimbrels (Numenius phaeopus) each April and May (> 2,200). These are presumed to be mostly or entirely of the N. p.hudsonicus subspecies and therefore >10% of the estimated biogeographic population of 18,000 for that subspecies. AnahuacNWR is also a very important spring stopover site for other species, especially Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, and possibly both the Long- and Shortbilled Dowitcher. If daily turnover rates are taken into account, the number of each of these species that use the refuge during the course of a spring migration likely exceeds the 10% "flyway" threshold as well.

Anahuac is one of five World Heritage Sites in Texas (all of International Importance and listed north to south): Anahuac, Bolivar Flats, Texas Mid-Coast NWR Complex, South Texas Salt Lakes, and Laguna Madre - a binational site with Tamaulipas, Mexico. The refuge is approximately 65% coastal marsh (over half of which is wholly or partly structurally managed), 25% upland grasslands, and 10% moist-soil and rice. The refuge provides critical habitat for a diversity of wildlife including migratory and resident birds (particularly waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and neotropical migrants), reptiles, and estuarine fisheries. It is an important spring stopover site for other species, especially Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, and possibly both the Long- and Short-billed Dowitcher. If daily turnover rates are taken into account, the number of each of these species that use the refuge during the course of a spring migration likely exceeds the 10% "flyway" threshold as well.

Are you a birder who visits the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge? You will surely be interested in the management plans for its future. Patrick Walthur is the Refuge Complex Refuge Manager and is involved in all the bird and plant studies going on there.

Patrick will address wildlife studies ongoing at Anahuac and the addition of the former Cade Ranch on Bolivar Peninsula that will be added to its holdings. He will also be available to answer important questions such as: What was the effect of the storm waters that rolled over Bolivar Peninsula and into Anahuac marshes? Why will closing Rollover Pass be good for them? Do you know where to find a King Rail as opposed to a Clapper rail in the Refuge? Hybrids happen too. \uparrow top \uparrow

Double Lake Recreation Area in San Jacinto County Field Trip, Saturday March 5.

Led by Mike Austin

March is sort of a hiatus between winter and spring and we will look for some target birds, Winter Wren, Hairy Woodpecker with a nearby Red-cockaded Woodpecker Colony and Brownheaded Nuthatch. The area is north of Cleveland. Meeting time will be confirmed. Limited number of participants; trip is full.

TNC - Mad Island Marsh Preserve – Bay City, TX, Saturday, April 9 and Sunday, April 10

Led by Steve Goetz, Manager, MIMP

Mad Island Marsh Preserve is a TNC property to which the public does not generally have access. Steve Goetz, Manager of MIMP, will be our guide. Smithsonian will be on the property

banding our migrating birds and this will be a plus. As you all probably know MIMP ranks at the top for CBC Bird Counts. This will be considered a weekender and you can either come out for the day or stay over and we will be bird the area more and the surrounding Matagorda area. More details to follow regarding hotel, etc. ↑top↑

Field Trip Reports

Katy Prairie Conservancy Field Trip Report - February 13, 2016



The birds of Katy Prairie never disappoint! On a warm and breezy afternoon, 26 OG members stood in awe at the close of the evening, as they watched the night sky fill with up to 2,000 Sandhill Cranes and about 70 Long-billed Curlews. Leader, Steve Gast proudly shared how the Katy Prairie Conservancy protects this 9 square mile slice of ornithological heaven. Tucked away in the southwest corner of the property, the Indiangrsss Preserve has become quite a favorite roosting spot for these graceful birds. Leader, Bob Honig described the differences between the calls of the Sandhill Cranes as a juvenile called out as it flew over the group.

The calls of the Killdeer and Red-winged Blackbirds added to the symphonic cacophony just before sunset.

Earlier in the day, our group stopped short of the road to Mary Manor to allow an adult and juvenile Crested Caracara feast unmolested on a recently deceased Nutria along the wayside. On our late-afternoon jaunt we saw White and Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers, White Pelicans, Snow Geese and of course lots of ducks. David Hanson, the "Duck Whisperer" identified them as they flew overhead, while

helping others to learn their field marks. The ducks included Gadwall, Mottled Duck, Northern Shoveler, Northern Pintail, and Green-winged Teal.

A few of the OG members were is a discussion with Bob about Red-winged Blackbirds (RWBL) and asked about their molting patterns. Bob pointed out that male RWBL's attain their beautiful black breeding season coloration via feather wear rather than a molt, i.e., brown feather edges of feathers freshly grown in autumn wear off by spring. He said, he can't say for sure that the RWBL molt pattern differs from most birds, and, in fact, may be the case, but he just doesn't know and would love to find out.

[Bob notes: "I've looked in several texts and on the web and found a number of sources stating "many" species molt once per year and "many" molt twice annually, but they don't offer a definitive statement on the relative proportion of species that do one vs. the other. I did fine one web page that indicates most birds molt once annually; but I'd like to see other sources corroborating that before I fully embrace it (not everything on the Internet is correct). Can anyone out there provide some insight? https://www.allaboutbirds.org/the-basics-feathermolt/ gives a very nice summary, but again no proportions given."]

We thank our Leaders, Steve and Bob, for a memorable trip to the prairie. Without their passion and devotion to Katy Prairie Conservancy, such adventures would not be possible.

There were no fees associated with this event, and you can show your appreciation for the great experience by donating to the KPC. In summary, no donation is too small and appreciated, and the donations that are contributed directly to the Katy Prairie through the website or mailed, go directly to the Katy Prairie and assigned a different fund than a general donation.

(a) to donate on line, click on "Donate" near the top left of KPC's home page; or
(b) for a variety of options including on-line donation, point to "Support" near the top of KPC's home page and then click on "Donate" in the drop-down menu (or go directly to http://www.katyprairie.org/donate/).

SparrowFest Weekender Field Trip Report - February 6, 2016

On the first Saturday in February 28 members of the OG gathered at the Flying X ranch property of the Balcones Canyonlands National wildlife refuge to participate in the 11th Sparrow Fest. Our hosts were the Friends of the BCNWR and they treated us with true Texas hospitality. Laurie Foss headed up a group of volunteers who kept us fed throughout the day, while Bryon Stone, Jeff Patterson, Randy Pinkston, and Bill Reiner each led small groups of participants to such colorful named places as Peaceful Springs and Cow Creek Road in search of those LBBs. Braving cool weather, stiff winds, and cactus spines, we used the sparrow circle and sparrow line technique to flush out some wonderful birds. At the end of the day we sighted 19 out of the 21 sparrow species in the refuge - Canyon Towhee, Spotted Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Black -throated Sparrow, White -throated sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Fox Sparrow.



The next morning most of the group continued birding at Inks Lake State Park. First we visited the new bird blind, which is very beautiful, and walked some of the trails around it, followed by a trip to the fishing piers and checking out the waterfowl. Some of the highlights of non-sparrow species sighted on Saturday and Sunday include: Lesser Goldfinches, Ladder-backed woodpecker, Pyrrhuloxia, Inca Dove, Canyon Wren, Verdin, Cooper's Hawk, Kestrel, Red-tail Hawk, Northern Bobwhites, Wood Ducks, Canada Geese, Gadwall, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, and Eared Grebe.



Some of us are ready to go again, and look forward to Sparrow Fest 2017 which will be held around February 4th. (Photos of Black-Throated Sparrow (Liz Eagarney), Le Conte's Sparrow (Nina Rach), and Verdin (Nina Rach).



Galveston Island Field Trip Report - January 24, 2016

Alice Anne O'Donell, President of Galveston Audubon, who lives in Galveston and knows all the special spots to bird the Island led 17 OG Members on a field trip of the west side of the Island.

Several OG members commented that they visited spots they had never been to. We met at Moody Gardens, then the Miniature Golf on Stewart Road, Beach Pocket Park, 7 ½ Mile Rd, 8 Mile Rd, Sportsman Rd, and Evia Ponds. All throughout the day she explained bird habitat and specialties of the birds and special ways to remember. After lunch, she invited us to her yard to

view birds there and take photos at her blind. Everyone had a great time and appreciated the leadership Alice Anne provided to the group. Highlights of birds seen are Clapper Rail, Redbreasted Merganser, Common Loon, Redhead, American Pipits, American Widgeon, Ringnecked Duck, Common Tern, Canvasback, Oystercatcher, Reddish Egret, Vermillion Flycatcher, Nashville Warbler, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, White-tailed Hawk.

Special Official Bird Count to Long Acres Ranch Nature Center – January 22

OG members were invited by Miles Phillips, Associate Department Head for Texas A&M Agrilife Extension to provide an official bird count at Long Acres Ranch in Richmond which is an 800 acre ranch adjacent to the Brazos River The ranch was recently purchased by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and does not have public access yet. Miles Phillips is currently working with the Coastal Prairie Chapter of Texas Master Naturalist to review the property and provide recommendations for native plants to enhance wetlands to enhance it for birds and other wildlife.



Miles invited us to bird the ranch and provide a baseline for the birds sited on the property. He was excited about us taking on this venture and welcomed us with open arms. There were 26 OG members attending and we were divided into 5 groups, led by Skip Almoney, David Hanson,

Glenn Olsen, Marcy Brown, and Miles Phillips. We were greeted at 6:30 AM with donuts and coffee, and an orientation of the property and maps of the areas we were assigned to bird. Some of us hopped on the Polaris Ranger and drove out to the wet parts of the property to bird. After our birding, we returned to the Ranger House for lunch and an overview of the history of the property and future plans. After lunch, we toured the property on their open trailer and had a blast. We identified 61 species and some highlights were, Barred Owl, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Hermit Thrush, Pine Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, and White-tailed Hawk. Miles has asked us to come back this spring and take another official bird count. We are excited about the opportunity and a date will be announced.



<u>↑top</u>↑

2016 Dues are Due!

Don't forget to renew your ONC/OG dues if you haven't already done so. ONC/OG dues are paid yearly on a calendar basis beginning January 1st. Ornithology Group dues are used to pay honorariums and travel expenses for speakers at OG meetings, to make OG donations to other organizations, and for a few other OG expenses. Life Members of ONC still need to pay yearly OG dues. Pay by check at the next OG meeting or use the form below with current information for the ONC database, and mail along with your check to the ONC post office box. We need your dues to keep the Ornithology Group running!

If you have questions about your membership status, contact Margret Simmons at msimmons@compassnet.com or 713-776-2511.

Thank you for your renewal!

TO START OR RENEW A MEMBERSHIP:

Name:	 	
Address:		
Telephone:	 	
E-Mail:	 	

ONC Annual Dues: \$ 8.00 for individuals; \$ 15.00 for families OG Annual Dues: \$ 12.00 for individuals; \$ 15.00 for families

Total: \$ 20.00 for individuals; \$ 30.00 for families

Additional contributions are welcome in any amount.

Send to: Outdoor Nature Club PO Box 1014 Bellaire, TX 77402 <u>^top</u>

Upcoming Texas Birding Events

Compiled by Nina Rach, updated 21 January 2016 [please send corrections and additions to NRach@AutreVie.com]

Feb 24 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Feb 24 – Wed - Shorebird walk, Goose Island State Park, 8:30-10:30 am; led by Les & Jane Hall.

Feb 24 - Wed - Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

March 2016 (vol. 66; no. 3)

Feb 25 – Thurs – Guided bird walk at Bear Creek Pioneers Park. Meet at community center 8:30 am.

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

Feb 26 - Fri - Shorebird walk, Goose Island State Park, 8:30-10:30 am; led by Les & Jane Hall.

Feb 27 – Sat - Shorebird walk, Goose Island State Park, 8:30-10:30 am; led by Les & Jane Hall.

March 2 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

March 2 - Wed - Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

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

March 5 – Sat – Attwater Prairie Chicken monthly refuge tour (free, but must reserve in advance)

http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147494235

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

March 9 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

March 9 - Wed - Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

March 11 – Fri – Kleb Woods Senior bus trip to Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR, 5 am – 5 pm; Reservation required

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

March 12 – Sat - Armand Bayou Nature Center Bird Survey, 7am, led by *Andrew Hamlett* (*bachwblr@yahoo.com*)

March 16 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

March 16 - Wed - Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

March 17 - Thurs - Baytown Nature Center Bird Survey, 8:00 am with David Hanson

March 17-20 - Thurs-Sun - Audubon's Nebraska Crane Festival, www.nebraskacranefestival.org

March 18-20 – Fri-Sun - Davis Mountains Preserve Open Weekend (8am Fri-4pm Sun), Nature Conservancy, 25 mi west of Ft. Davis; 10 mi past McDonald Observatory.

March 2016 (vol. 66; no. 3)

http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/events/davis-mountains-preserve-2016-open-days.xml

March 19 – Sat - Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, public bird banding session, 8am – 12pm. www.gcbo.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 23 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

March 23 - Wed - Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

March 24 – Thurs – Guided bird walk at Bear Creek Pioneers Park. Meet at community center 8:30 am.

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

March 30 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

March 30 - Wed - Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

April – all month – Spring Fling at Quintana Neotropical Reserve

April 2 – Sat – Attwater Prairie Chicken monthly refuge tour (free, but must reserve in advance) www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147494235

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

April 5 – Tues – Early evening bird walk at Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, 6:00-7:15 pm

April 6 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

April 6 - Wed - Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

April 8 – Fri – Kickoff Dinner for Migration Celebration, Freeport RiverPlace, in Freeport Municipal Park, speaker Kelly Drinnen, Education Specialist at Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. www.migrationcelebration.org

April 9 – Sat - Armand Bayou Nature Center Bird Survey, 7am, led by *Andrew Hamlett* (*bachwblr@yahoo.com*)

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

April 9-10 – Sat-Sun – Booming –N- Blooming; 22nd Attwater Prairie Chicken Festival, Attwater PC NWR.

Lek viewing tours start at 7 am; Van tours 10:30-12:00-1:30; Bird walks 8:45-10:30; Native plant walking tours 1:00-2:30 pm; www.fws.gov/refuge/attwater_prairie_chicken/

April 12 - Tues - Early evening bird walk at Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, 6:00-7:15 pm

April 13 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

April 13 - Wed - Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

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) www.galvestonfeatherfest.com

[April 16-17 – BP MS150 bike ride, Houston to Austin]

April 16 – Sat - Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, public bird banding session, 8am – 12pm. www.gcbo.org

April 16 – Sat – Davis Mountains Preserve Open Day (8am-4pm), Nature Conservancy, 25 mi west of Ft. Davis

www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/events/davis-mountains-preserve-2016-open-days.xml

April 16-17 – Sat-Sun - 22nd Annual Migration Celebration, San Bernard NWR, southern Brazoria County, www.migrationcelebration.org

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

April 19 – Tues – Early evening bird walk at Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, 6:00-7:15 pm

April 20 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

April 20 - Wed - Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

April 21 - Thurs - Baytown Nature Center Bird Survey, 8:00 am with David Hanson

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

April 26 – Tues – Early evening bird walk at Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, 6:00-7:15 pm

April 27 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

April 27 – Wed – Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

April 28 – Thurs – Guided bird walk at Bear Creek Pioneers Park. Meet at community center 8:30 am.

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

May 3 - Tues - LAST Early evening bird walk at Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, 6:00-7:15 pm

May 4 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

May 4 – Wed – Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

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 7 – Sat – Attwater Prairie Chicken monthly refuge tour (free, but must reserve in advance) http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147494235

May 11 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

May 11 - Wed - LAST Lunch with the birds, Russ Pitman Park, Bellaire, noon to 1:15 pm

May 14 – Sat - Armand Bayou Nature Center Bird Survey, 7am, led by *Andrew Hamlett* (*bachwblr@yahoo.com*)

May 18 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

May 19 - Thurs - Baytown Nature Center Bird Survey, 8:00 am with David Hanson

May 21 – Sat - Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, public bird banding session, 8am – 12pm. www.gcbo.org

May 21 – Sat – Davis Mountains Preserve Open Day (8am-4pm), Nature Conservancy, 25 mi west of Ft. Davis

http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/events/davis-mountains-preserve-2016-open-days.xml

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.

www.outdoornatureclub.org/LTNS_route_map.pdf

May 25 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

May 26 – Thurs – Guided bird walk at Bear Creek Pioneers Park. Meet at community center 8:30 am.

June 1 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am – 10:00 am [note earlier time]

June 4 – Sat – Attwater Prairie Chicken monthly refuge tour (free, but must reserve in advance) http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147494235

June 4 – Sat – Pelagic trip (first of 7), S. Padre Island, 12-hour (June 11 weather back-up) texaspelagics.com

June 8 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

June 11 – Sat - Armand Bayou Nature Center Bird Survey, 7am, led by *Andrew Hamlett* (*bachwblr@yahoo.com*)

June 15 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

June 18 – Sat - Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, public bird banding session, 8am – 12pm. www.gcbo.org

June 22 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

June 29 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

July 2 – Sat – Attwater Prairie Chicken monthly refuge tour (free, but must reserve in advance) http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147494235

July 6 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

July 8-10 – Fri-Sun - – Sat – Davis Mountains Preserve Open Weekend (8am Fri-4pm Sun), Nature Conservancy, 25 mi west of Ft. Davis; 10 mi past McDonald Observatory. http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/events/davismountains-preserve-2016-open-days.xml

July 9 – Sat - Armand Bayou Nature Center Bird Survey, 7am, led by *Andrew Hamlett* (*bachwblr@yahoo.com*)

July 13 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

July 16 – Sat - Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, public bird banding session, 8am – 12pm. www.gcbo.org

March 2016 (vol. 66; no. 3)

July 20 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

July 23 - Sat - Pelagic trip (#2 of 7), Port Aransas, 16-hour (longer trip) texaspelagics.com

July 27 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Aug 1 - Mon - OG monthly meeting

Aug 3 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Aug 6 – Sat – Attwater Prairie Chicken monthly refuge tour (free, but must reserve in advance) <u>http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147494235</u>

Aug 10 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Aug 12-14 – Fri-Sun – Davis Mountains Preserve Open Weekend (8am Fri-4pm Sun), Nature Conservancy, 25 mi west of Ft. Davis; 10 mi past McDonald Observatory. http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/events/davis-mountains-preserve-2016-open-days.xml

Aug 13 – Sat - Armand Bayou Nature Center Bird Survey, 7am, led by *Andrew Hamlett* (*bachwblr@yahoo.com*)

Aug 17 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Aug 20 – Sat - Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, public bird banding session, 8am – 12pm. www.gcbo.org

Aug 24 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Aug 27 - Sat - Pelagic trip (#3 of 7), S. Padre Island, 16-hour (longer trip) texaspelagics.com

Aug 31 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Sept 3 – Sat – Attwater Prairie Chicken monthly refuge tour (free, but must reserve in advance) http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147494235

Sept 6 - Tues - OG Monthly Meeting, Bayland Community Center, Houston

Sept 7 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Sept 10 – Sat - Kleb Woods Hummingbird Festival, 9 am – 3 pm

Sept 10 – Sat - Armand Bayou Nature Center Bird Survey, 7am, led by *Andrew Hamlett* (*bachwblr@yahoo.com*)

Sept 14 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Sept 15 – Thurs – Baytown Nature Center Bird Survey, 8:00 am with David Hanson

Sept 17 - Sat - Pelagic trip (#4 of 7), S. Padre Island, 12-hour, texaspelagics.com

Sept 17 – Sat - Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, public bird banding session, 8am – 12pm. www.gcbo.org

Sept 21 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Sept 24 Sat – Pelagic trip (#5 of 7), S. Padre Island, 12-hour (exclusive for Arroyo Colorado Audubon Society)

Sept 28 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Oct 1 – Sat – Attwater Prairie Chicken monthly refuge tour (free, but must reserve in advance) http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147494235

Oct 3 – Mon - OG Monthly Meeting, Bayland Community Center, Houston

Oct 5 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Oct 8 - Sat - Pelagic trip (#6 of 7), S. Padre Island, 12-hour, texaspelagics.com

Oct 8 – Sat - Armand Bayou Nature Center Bird Survey, 7am, led by *Andrew Hamlett* (*bachwblr@yahoo.com*)

Oct 12 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Oct 15 – Sat - Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, public bird banding session, 8am – 12pm. www.gcbo.org

Oct 15 – Sat – Davis Mountains Preserve Open Day (8am-4pm), Nature Conservancy, 25 mi west of Ft. Davis

http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/events/davis-mountains-preserve-2016-open-days.xml

Oct 19 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Oct 20 – Thurs – Baytown Nature Center Bird Survey, 8:00 am with David Hanson

Oct 26 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Oct 31 - Sat - Pelagic trip (#7 of 7), S. Padre Island, 12-hour, texaspelagics.com

Nov 2 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Nov 5 – Sat – Attwater Prairie Chicken monthly refuge tour (free, but must reserve in advance) http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147494235

Nov 7 - Mon - OG Monthly Meeting, Bayland Community Center, Houston

Nov 9 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Nov 12 – Sat - Armand Bayou Nature Center Bird Survey, 7am, led by *Andrew Hamlett* (*bachwblr@yahoo.com*)

Nov 16 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Nov 17 - Thurs - Baytown Nature Center Bird Survey, 8:00 am with David Hanson

Nov 19 – Sat - Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, public bird banding session, 8am – 12pm. www.gcbo.org

Nov 23 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Nov 30 - Wed - Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Dec 3 – Sat – Attwater Prairie Chicken monthly refuge tour (free, but must reserve in advance) http://www.fws.gov/nwrs/threecolumn.aspx?id=2147494235

Dec 5 – Mon - OG Monthly Meeting, Bayland Community Center, Houston

Dec 7 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Dec 9-11 – Fri-Sun - Davis Mountains Preserve Open Weekend (8am Fri-4pm Sun), Nature Conservancy, 25 mi west of Ft. Davis; 10 mi past McDonald Observatory. http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/events/davismountains-preserve-2016-open-days.xml

Dec 14 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Dec 17 – Sat - Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, public bird banding session, 8am – 12pm. www.gcbo.org

Dec 21 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

Dec 28 – Wed – Kleb Woods weekly bird walk, 8:30 am – 11:30 am

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About the Ornithology Group

Chair (Interim): Nina Rach | 281-433-0651 | NRach@autrevie.com Vice Chair (Programs): | JoAnn Raine | RaineJoann@gmail.com Secretary | Jean Greenhalgh | JeanBrit01@gmail.com Treasurer: Harlan Evans | 713-797-6468 | harlanj42@sbcglobal.net Clearing House: David Sarkozi | 713-412-4409 | david@sarkozi.net Library and Swifts: Pam Smolen | pjsmolen@att.net Membership: Margret Simmons | 713-776-2511 | msimmons@compassnet.com Field Trips: Jean Booth | Ijeanbooth@aol.com Spoonbill Editor: Larry Dybala | 713-923-4040 | larrydybala@gmail.com Spoonbill Outgoing Editor: Vicki Sims: oncspoon@gmail.com OG website: http://www.ornithologygroup.org/ ONC website: http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/