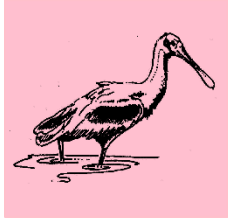


## Monthly Meeting October 3, 2016

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



6:30 pm Learning Corner: To be determined

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

7:30 pm [Program](#): Mono-Typic Birds by David Sarkozi

[Field Trip](#): San Jacinto Monument State Park, October 22, led by

Stephan Lorenz

### [Ravens and Crows](#)

## Mono-Typic Birds

by David Sarkozi

David will discuss the 30-plus species of birds that are represented by only one species in their family. They are the exotic and unusual mono-typic species.

David announces that he will be retiring from the University of Houston Department of Public Safety at the end of August this year. “Many of you have heard me talk about this for years, but after 35 years the pull to try something else has become strong enough to make me willing to leave the University of Houston,” relates David. “I have always thought that few, except for my old boss, understand how I feel about the University. He and I both started working here in our teens and in a way grew up here. We both have a sense of ownership, of stewardship that most people never feel for the University of Houston because it’s just a waypoint for them. We are lifers though.”

“What comes next? I will try my hand at being a professional birding guide ([Kozibirding.com](#)) leading birdwatching tours in Texas and Belize. I finished a Texas birding Big Year in 2016. When my wife retires in a few more years we are looking at moving at least part time to Belize, where many of you know I spend many vacations.”

David has been active in the Texas Ornithological Society and often leads field trips for them. He maintains a very high interest at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, serving on the Board. We have trudged along the road or through the wetlands when he leads the yellow rail walks.

We look forward to going along on some Kozibirding trips..

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## **Field Trip:**

**Saturday, October 22, 7:30 am**

**San Jacinto Monument State Park led by Stephan Lorenz**

We will meet at 7:30 am on Saturday, October 22, at the park entrance (special arrangements are made to open the gate early for us) at 7:30 am. Go to the main gate first which should be open.

We will bird the park, and may move around in the vicinity from there, leaders choice. Plan to bird until noon and bring a lunch.

Call me on cell as needed – 832-816-1060.

*(We are cancelling the field to Brazos Bend State Park that was planned for October 8 and replacing it with this trip to the San Jacinto Monument State Park.)*

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## **Ravens and Crows**

**By JoAnn Raine**

Ravens share with crows the direct family name which is Corvid. Both Common Ravens and Chihuahuan Ravens are present in Texas. We know crows are found here in Harris county and although distinguishing the two black birds can present a challenge, there are a number of ways to accomplish the goal. Ravens are larger than crows by at least twice. The Common Raven is the size of a hawk, while the crow is about pigeon sized. Raven is a heavier and bulkier bird weighing about 2 pounds. It has a longer beak, with the beak extending well beyond the nasal bristles. Ravens tend to look ruffled as their feathers are slightly pointed. They show "fingers" on the wing tips when soaring. A soaring bird is a very good clue. Ravens ride thermals and are usually single or paired.



Habitat can be a clue to decide whether the bird is a raven or a crow. Crows are found in open areas at lower elevations with scattered vegetation and around populated spaces. Mostly they fly in small flocks or extended family groups. Common Ravens seem to prefer hilly canyon country or foothill cliff edges. But many times the habitat may contain both elevations and we need to identify the birds from other field marks.

When seen flying, we look for the rounded tail for the crow as opposed to the wedge shaped tail of the raven. This field mark can be deceiving or not seen well enough. The Common Raven and the crow can be distinguished by voice. The voice of the Common Raven is more variable, lower, croaking and often not on a single tone. The voice of the crow is more nasal, tonal, and consistent as we hear it as a caw sound. Ravens and crows are among the more intelligent species of birds and are famous for their problem-solving abilities.

It is important to consider the type of land area and the probable range of each species. Don't forget, most often, it is a crow.

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## **About the Ornithology Group**

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