



Monthly Meeting October 1, 2018
Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX

6:30 pm Learning Corner: Group Social

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

7:30 pm [Program](#): Texas Historical Birding: Part 2, by Fred Collins and Bob Honig

[Field Trip](#): Brazoria NWR Field Trip, Saturday, October 13, 8 am, led by Mark Scheuerman; Bear Creek Park Field Trip, Saturday, October 20, 7:30 am, led by Drew Dickert

[Minutes of August OG Meeting](#) | [Humminmgbird Quiz Answers](#)
[Upcoming Texas Birding Events \(link to web page\)](#)
[Hart Beat: Black-Necked Stilts \(link to web page\)](#)

Texas Historical Birding: Part 2

by Fred Collins and Bob Honig

How do the places where birders in the Houston region went 50 years ago compare with where they go now? The stimulus for the presentation was OG's "Good Birding Trips," a bird-finding guide prepared in 1967-68, a copy of which recently came into Bob's possession. In the 50th anniversary year of what may be the OG's first bird finding guide, we will compare where Houston area birders went birding then with those locations today. Fred will add a first-hand perspective of birding when "Good Birding Trips" was written. Satellite imagery will help us look at land uses at these locations then and now.

In February Fred and Bob presented Part 1 which included Houston, Chambers County, White Memorial Park, High Island, and Bolivar Flats (see March 2018 issue of *The Spoonbill* for a summary). Part 2 will include Galveston Island, areas west of Galveston Bay, and the Katy Prairie.

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Brazoria NWR Field Trip, Saturday, October 13, 8 am

Led by Mark Scheuerman

Meet at the visitor's center by 8:00 am. Brazoria NWR is Texas's #32 state birding hotspot, was established in 1969, and has an area of nearly 70 square miles.

Bring a radio if you have one; OG has only four. If you want to borrow one, please arrive 15 min early so Teresa can demonstrate how to use the radios correctly.

Mark will lead until noon, then all are welcome to meet for lunch at The Red Snapper Inn, 402 Blue Water HWY, Surfside Beach, 979-239-3226. It's a nice place to eat and to see shorebirds and salt marsh birds. For those joining us for lunch, Mark has offered to run over to Quintana for a quick check of the sanctuary if there's time. It's going to be FUN! Get ready to see lots of species of birds.

Carpooling encouraged! (contact Teresa) and meeting place will be Bayland Community Center, (where we hold OG monthly meetings).

Field trip Coordinator: Teresa Connell, (505) 280-7443

Trip Leader: Mark Scheuerman, (281)384-7683

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Bear Creek Park Field Trip, Saturday, October 20, 7:30 am

Led by Drew Dickert

Meet at Equestrian Center by 7:30 am. The Equestrian Center is at the entrance to parking lot connected to Equestrian Drive, which is on Bear Creek Dr., just south of Golbow Dr.

Trip leader Drew Dickert considers Bear Creek Park one of his "backyard favorites" and will share his favorite areas in the park.

The birding will finish around noon, and all are welcome to join for lunch at Spring Creek Barbecue, 5935 Highway 6 N., just south of W Little York, (281) 345-0326

Field Trip Coordinator: Teresa Connell, (505) 280-7443

Trip Leader: Drew Dickert, (713) 501-0508

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Minutes of August 6, 2018 Meeting

by Rusti Stover, OG Member

A fine program on birding apps for your smart phone was given by Kendra Kocab of the Kleb Woods Nature Sanctuary. She included recommendations from the expensive ones (about \$20 for the Sibley app), down to the freebies available in the app stores. Among her recommended and researched ones were the e Bird app, and iBird Pro, which you can add your own bird photos too, and for hawk lovers, Raptor ID, which for \$10.00 includes great flying silhouettes to help you identify what you saw. She also talked about apps more for casual birders, like the free Audubon Birds of North America, and Merlin Bird, outlining pros and cons for each. BirdsEye was discussed also, and other apps for side interests she thought were good for birders, such as BirdCast, which is real-time forecasting for bird migration, and WindAlert, helpful before heading out, and the many tide predicting apps available for your phone if you are seeking coastal birds.

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Hummingbird Quiz Answers

This 20-question quiz, published in the September issue of the *Spoonbill*, was written by Kelly B. Bryan. Here now are the answers (by Nina Rach):

1. The smallest hummingbird (and bird) in the world is the:
 - a. **Bee Hummingbird, *Mellisuga helenae*** – endemic to Cuba, weighs 1.5-2 g!
2. How many species of hummingbirds are there in the world?
 - c. 338 species in 115 genera. Almost half live in the "equatorial belt" between 10 degrees north and south of the equator.
3. The largest hummingbird species (**Giant Hummingbird, *Patagona gigas***) lives in:
 - c. The tundra zone of the Andes Mountains over 10,000 ft elevation – in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and ranges up to 15,750 ft.
4. Approximately one-third of all hummingbird species are found in the Old World.
 - b. False – Hummingbirds are found only in the Western Hemisphere
5. There are only four species of hummingbirds found in Australia.
 - b. False – They are only found in North, Central, South America and associated islands.
6. There is only one species of hummingbird found in Antarctica.
 - b. False – [this was a gimme!]
7. Adult, male **Broad-tailed Hummingbirds** make a high-pitched, metallic ("silvery") sound with:
 - b. The tip of their outer wing feather – ***Selasphorus platyceras***

8. Which species of hummingbird is known to fly across the Gulf of Mexico, non-stop, in spring migration?
 - c. **Ruby-throated Hummingbird, *Archilochus colubris*** – incredible, northward, spring migratory journey of 500 miles (800 km) over open ocean, en route to breeding grounds. The southward fall migration is overland, around the Gulf of Mexico, which is why we have so many appearing in Texas.
9. In anticipation of migration, a hummingbird engages in frenzied feeding activities that can add nearly half its weight in as little as four days. This fat is added subcutaneously as well as internally around its organs.
 - c. False, they do not add any fat internally around organs (only subcutaneously)
10. The longest distance migratory hummingbird in the world is the:
 - c. **Rufous Hummingbird, *Selasphorus rufus*** – Alaska to Central America, about 2700 miles.
11. Hummingbirds mate for life.
 - c. False.
12. The highest diversity of hummingbird species in Texas is in:
 - c. the mountains of west Texas.
13. The smallest migratory bird in the world is the:
 - d. **Calliope Hummingbird, *Selasphorus calliope*** – breeds in western US and Canada and winters in Mexico.
14. The most widespread breeding hummingbird in Texas is the:
 - c. **Black-chinned Hummingbird, *Archilochus alexandri***
15. Of the 19 species of hummingbirds on the official Texas list, how many have been recorded during the winter months of December, January, and February?
 - c. 15
Allen's, Anna's, Black-chinned, Broad-billed, Broad-tailed, Buff-bellied, Ruby-throated, Rufous
And rarely **Green-breasted Mango, Rivoli's, Blue-throated, Lucifer, Costa's, Calliope, Violet-crowned**
16. Most juvenile hummingbirds have longer wings and tails during their first year of life than their adult counterparts.
 - a. True – to make up for their inefficiency as they perfect their aerial maneuvers
17. A **Calliope Hummingbird, *Selasphorus calliope***, weighs approximately the same as a:
 - c. Penny, 2.5 g [Average bird weight: male 2.5 g, female 2.83 g]
<https://www.usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/coin-specifications>

18. The highest recorded heart rate in a hummingbird is:
d. 1250 beats per minute. [actually, 1263 bpm]
19. The iridescence in the feathers of a hummingbird, primarily in the gorget and crown, is due to:
c. Air bubbles trapped in the feathers.
[See: "Feathers: The evolution of a natural miracle," by Thor Hanson (2011), 352p.]
20. A hummingbird with atypical plumage, with some or many feathers all white (instead of normal pigmentation) is referred to as:
b. Leucistic.

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Ornithology Group Officers

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