



**Monthly Meeting August 5, 2019**  
**Bayland Community Center**  
**6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX**

6:30 pm Learning Corner: Details will be provided by email

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

7:15 pm Program: Details will be provided by email

[Minutes of May OG Meeting](#)  
[Upcoming Texas Birding Events \(link to web page\)](#)  
[Hart Beat: Barbed Wire Birds \(link to web page\)](#)

## **Minutes of May 6, 2019 Meeting**

**by Jean Greenhalgh**

The May 2019 meeting of OG was held on May 6, 2019 at the Bayland Park Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, at 6:30 pm. 27 members were present.

The Annual General Meeting of the Outdoor Nature Club was held at the above location before the OG meeting.

Nina Rach, ONC Chair, conducted the meeting.

Current Board Members of ONC are

President:	Nina Rach
Treasurer and Secretary:	Connie Blakley
Membership Vice-President	Susan Zuchowski
Public Relations	Susan Zuchowski
Sanctuaries Vice-President	Charles Peterson
Ornithology Group Representative	vacant

The Outdoor Nature Club Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary is open and details of events in 2019 are at <http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/LittleThicketNatureSanctuary>

Information on ONC is at <http://www.outdoornatureclub.org>

The May OG meeting then took place.

Field Trip Coordinator Teresa Connell was thanked for her service over the last two years. Teresa is moving back to California.

The positions of Vice-Chair (Programs) and Field Trip Coordinator are both vacant and OG is looking for people to volunteer for both these.

The Treasury has \$7,700 in the bank.

Bob Honig told the meeting about the proposed FM 529 extension which will affect the Katy Prairie. The details are at the [txdot.gov](http://txdot.gov) website. Comments had to be received by May 15 to be part of the official meeting record. For current information search for FM529 on the [txdo.gov](http://txdo.gov) website.

The program was given by Glen Olsen, on Warbler migration and Magee Marsh. He is owner of GObirding Ecotours and teaches at Rice University's Glasscock School of Continuing Studies, as well as at Houston Audubon.

Many warblers, and other migrants, winter from South America to Mexico and the Caribbean islands and many of them fly from these areas to the boreal forests of Canada and the northern USA, especially up the central flyway. In Texas we see them when they have just crossed the Gulf of Mexico, but when they fly north they meet the water obstacle of the Great Lakes. They stop along the shorelines to "refuel" for the next part of their journey and one of the best places to see this in the USA is Magee Marsh in Ohio. There are over 40 eBird hotspots in the Magee Marsh area and more than 250 birds have been seen.

Magee Marsh is an area east of Toledo, Ohio on the southern shore of Lake Erie. Over 40 warbler species have been seen here on their annual northbound migration. These include breeding birds such as Yellow and Magnolia Warblers and migrants such Blackpoll, Blackburnian, Cape May, Golden-Winged, Canada and Cerulean Warblers, Scarlet Tanagers, vireos, orioles and American Woodcock.

There are various habitats in the area including cottonwoods in drier areas and honeysuckle shrubs on the Lake Erie shoreline. Magee Marsh was formerly drained but is now a seasonal swamp with some land higher and some wet. The trees are short and the vegetation is not very dense. There is a boardwalk through the swamp, in the shape of an irregular semi-circle. Sections of the boardwalk are numbered with numbers carved into the railing.

From the boardwalk, because of the smaller trees and the small leaf size, many of the birds are seen at close range. Photographs do not need a long lens. There are often a lot of people on the boardwalk with people spotting birds and naming them, too, though not always correctly.

The busiest time is a 10 day festival is organized by the Black Swamp Bird Observatory each May called the Biggest Week in American Birding. Thousands of birders attend and the boardwalk becomes an almost solid mass of people. Bird guide hosts stand at each numbered

section of the boardwalk to help attendees. There are field trips, presentations, workshops and speakers. The website is [www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com](http://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com)

Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge is next door with open trees, a large lake marsh and a boardwalk. There are fewer people here.

This migrant spectacular takes place in the first two to three weeks in May. The weather is variable with the 40's most nights and cool mornings. It can rain, and a light sweater and rain jacket are useful as are gloves and hats for colder days.

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## **Ornithology Group Officers**

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

**Vice Chair (Programs): Volunteer needed**

**Secretary | Jean Greenhalgh | [JeanBrit01@yahoo.com](mailto:JeanBrit01@yahoo.com)**

**Treasurer: Harlan Evans | 713-797-6468 | [harlanj42@sbcglobal.net](mailto:harlanj42@sbcglobal.net)**

**Clearing House: David Sarkozi | 713-412-4409 | [david@sarkozi.net](mailto:david@sarkozi.net)**

**Swifts: Pam Smolen | [pjsmolen@att.net](mailto:pjsmolen@att.net)**

**Membership: Michael Honel | 713-432-1985 | [michaelhonel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:michaelhonel@sbcglobal.net)**

**Field Trips: Volunteer needed**

***Spoonbill* Editor: Larry Dybala | 713-923-4040 | [larrydybala@gmail.com](mailto:larrydybala@gmail.com)**

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

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

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