



Monthly Meeting October 7, 2019
Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet St, Houston, TX

6:30 pm Learning Corner: OG's Recent Trans-Pecos Field Trip

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

7:15 pm [Program](#): Beyond the Camera – Recording Bird Audio by David Sarkozi

[Field Trips](#): Bear Creek Park, Saturday, October 5, 7:30 am, led by Drew Deckert;
OG Field Trip to TNC's Davis Mountains Preserve, October 11-13; OG's Little
Thicket Nature Sanctuary, October 26

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[Upcoming Texas Birding Events \(link to web page\)](#)

[Hart Beat: Migration \(link to web page\)](#)

Beyond the Camera – Recording Bird Audio

By David Sarkozi

Please join us for what will be a very interesting and useful overview of audio recording. David will cover the basics of recording bird songs and calls, starting with a basic cell phone, and discussing various equipment and software options, editing and loading recordings to eBird checklists.

He last spoke at our Sept 2018 meeting, discussing Texas nemesis birds, "The Dirty Dozen," and at our August 2017 meeting he presented an overview of the OG field trip he led in Belize in February of that year. Through his company, Kozi Birding, David will be running trips to Belize Oct 12-20 and Feb 15-23, 2020 - highly recommended!

There will be a dinner with the speaker at Pupusa, 7909 Hillcroft at 5:30.

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Bear Creek Park Field Trip, Saturday, October 5, 7:30 am

By Drew Dickert

Meet on War Memorial Drive, just west of Eldridge, near the Aviary in front of the small duck pond. Enjoy the slightly cooler early fall temperatures and explore Bear Creek Park with us. Around 40 species are seen on a good morning. Flycatchers (Empids and Olive-sided) have been plentiful recently, along with Baltimore Oriole, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Indigo Bunting. A

Bald Eagle has made an early return. Recent warblers include Canada, Mourning, Cerulean (rare), Nashville, Wilson's, Yellow, Hooded, American Redstart, and others. A Lark Sparrow has been hanging around with a flock of House Finches, and last year at this time, we saw two Palm Warblers. Vermilion Flycatcher should arrive soon. If you are into exotics, Scaly-breasted Munia, Northern Red Bishop, and Bronze Mannikin have all been seen recently. Since Hurricane Harvey, the Golf course is open for birding, and includes a larger pond and some open grassland. I hope to see you all there!

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OG Field trip to TNC's Davis Mountains Preserve, October 11-13, 2019

by Nina Rach

Fall birding in the Trans-Pecos!

There are about 80 potential bird species to see in The Nature Conservancy's Davis Mountains Preserve in October, many of which do not stray anywhere near the Greater Houston area.

There are good trails to hike in the Preserve, and we can also explore the adjacent and EASY to bird Lawrence Wood picnic area on Texas 118.

We plan to drive out to Fort Davis on Thursday, Oct 10, and spend the night at Indian Lodge or at one of the small hotels in town. On Friday morning, we can enter TNC's Preserve, those who are camping can set up tents, and we can hike and bird in the preserve for the weekend. Options on Sunday afternoon include McDonald Observatory/Mt. Locke area, Davis Mountains State Park, or even Lake Balmorhea and the Sandia wetlands. We can drive home on Monday, Oct 14.

High-clearance vehicles with 4WD/AWD are required to navigate the road inside the preserve. Any other vehicles will have to remain at McIvor Visitor Center. Camping is available next to the Visitor Center (bathrooms, kitchen, and electricity) or in the back country, if you are so inclined.

33 bird species seen in Tobe Canyon in October (eBird):

White-throated Swift, Turkey Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-naped Sapsucker,

Acorn Woodpecker, Ladder-backed Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Peregrine Falcon, Hutton's Vireo,

Cassin's/Plumbeous Vireo, Steller's Jay, Woodhouse's Scrub-Jay, Common Raven, Mountain Chickadee,

Bushtit, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Rock Wren, Canyon Wren,

Bewick's Wren, Hermit Thrush, Chipping Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Canyon Towhee,

Rufous-crowned Sparrow, Spotted Towhee, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Hepatic Tanager, Summer Tanager, Western Tanager

Should be seen in Tobe in Oct: Black-crested Titmouse, House Wren

42 Additional species seen in the Preserve in October:

Snow Goose, Mexican Duck, Mallard x Mexican Duck, Wood Duck, Montezuma Quail,

Wild Turkey, White-winged Dove, Mourning Dove, Greater Roadrunner, Ruby-throated Hummingbird,

Black-chinned HB, Anna's HB, Rufous HB, Golden Eagle, Northern Harrier,

Sharp-shinned Hawk, Bald Eagle, Western Screech-owl, Elf Owl, American Kestrel,

Western Wood-Pewee, Say's Phoebe, Cassin's Kingbird, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike,

Red-breasted Nuth., Blue-gray Gnatc., Curved-billed Thrasher, Western Bluebird, Townsend's Solitaire,

Pine Siskin, Lesser Goldfinch, Cassin's Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Black-chinned Sparrow,

Lark Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow,

Wilson's Warbler, Northern Cardinal.

Should be seen in Oct: Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, House Finch, Black-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Pyrrhuloxia

eBird Hotspots with NO October records for eBird:

Limpia Chute/Mt Livermore Loop

Mt Livermore Trail

Madera Canyon Road

Wolf Den Canyon

Pine Peak/Shoe Rd

Jones Tank Trail

Please contact Nina Rach at nina.rach@yahoo.com or (281) 433-0651 for more trip details.

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Letter from the Chair

By Nina Rach

Welcome to the 2019-2020 year of Ornithology Group activities! I'd like to thank everyone for their continued membership and participation in the OG. We want to provide useful information and enjoyable experiences for everyone, on public and private lands. There are great opportunities to watch new species at monthly/quarterly bird counts and Christmas bird counts throughout the region, and a lot of potential for quality birding experiences!

Onslaught of Imelda

Two years ago, we were subjected to Hurricane Harvey; this year, we had Tropical Depression Imelda on Sept 18-19-20, with catastrophic flooding in southeast Texas and southwest Louisiana. Several members of our birding community were once again flooded and it will be another long road to recovery of homes, vehicles, and some critical roads (I-10's San Jacinto River crossing, in particular).

Field trips

We put together a great Trans-Pecos field trip over Labor Day weekend, visiting four different private homes with dozens of hummingbird feeders in the Davis Mountains, the private Christmas Mountains Oasis, Elephant Mountain WMA, and did several hikes in Big Bend National Park, including the Window Trail and the Colima "death march" (Pinnacles and Boot Spring trails) in the Chisos Mountains. Nine people participated, and we gained two new members. We're planning more trips for the coming year, but the OG could use a dedicated field trip coordinator to put together interesting field trip opportunities. The OG is open to new ideas and volunteers to help make them happen. Please volunteer. And let us all try to carpool more on field trips. It will be more enjoyable and keep the group together. It's also less noisy and reduces our parking requirements.

On Saturday, Oct 5, OG offers a field trip to Bear Creek Park, to be led by Drew Dickert.

We'll be heading to The Nature Conservancy's Davis Mountains Preserve for their open weekend, Oct 11-12-13.

On Saturday, Oct 26, OG has a field trip to the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary, in San Jacinto County.

On Saturday, February 1, we'll have another field trip to Brazos Bend State Park, led by Mark Scheuerman. Details TBA.

Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary – Open Day

On Sat, Sept 28, we welcomed David and Emily Todd and other members of the Cullinan family to LTNS in recognition of the 60th anniversary of their donations for several key parcels of land, now marked by granite memorials: the Craig F. Cullinan Memorial Grove and the John Halm

Cullinan Memorial Grove. ONC also delineates the Mary Wight Stillman Grove on the northeastern margin.



We walked and drove down 5.5 miles of the sanctuary's 20+ miles of trails, visited one of our champion trees, studied mushrooms, and enjoyed seeing Broad-winged Hawks, Red-shouldered Hawks, Woodpeckers (Pileated, Downy, and Red-bellied), and a handful of passerines. Big thanks to Wanda & Charles Smith, Sue & Mike Zuchowski, Charles Peterson, and Sergio Henao for making the day a success.

Birding Around the State

Please take advantage of the updated Texas Birding activities list for guided opportunities to bird all over Texas! If you hear of additional events or note any mistakes, please contact me and I will amend the list.

Advance notice! Dates are set, January 16-19, 2020, for the Texas Ornithological Society (TOS) Winter Meeting, to be co-hosted by Rio Brazos Audubon in College Station, TX. Details will be available online soon, at texasbirds.org

Best wishes to all for your fall birding,

Nina Rach, Nina.Rach@yahoo.com (note the new email)

UPCOMING OG SPEAKERS, Fall 2019:

- ▶ Oct 7 – David Sarkozi – Beyond the Binoculars: Recording Bird Audio
- ▶ Nov 4 – Dominic Le Croisette -
- ▶ Dec 2 – Tony Frank – Organizing a Big Day in Texas

Volunteer Opportunities:

Field Trip Coordinator

VP Programs

Publicity

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Birding Podcasts

By Jerry Chen

[**Hannah and Erik Go Birding**] this is a fairly new birding podcast. It's weekly. Each episode focuses a birding adventure of the young couple. Pretty interesting.

[**Bird Banter**] by Dr Ed Pullen. It's also weekly and a fairly new birding podcast. In each episode, Ed interviews a well-known birder for his/her birding stories.

[**BirdNote**] it's a daily podcast, each lasting about 2min. Each episode usually talks about one bird species. Very educational.

Other good birding podcasts:

- ABA's American Birding Podcast
- BirdCallsRadio
- Laura Erickson's for the Bird
- Out there with the Birds
- Talkin' Birds
- Bird Sh*t Podcast

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Fungi at the Little Thicket Nature Sanctuary

by Nina Rach

This is a small selection of the mushrooms and saprobic fungi (colonizing dead wood) seen at LTNS during our Open Day on Saturday, Sept 28, 2019. September and October are excellent months to see a variety of mushrooms, so be sure to visit on Saturday, October 26, to see an even greater variety.



Ornithology Group Officers

Chair: Nina Rach | 281-433-0651 | Nina.Rach@yahoo.com

Vice Chair (Programs): Volunteer needed

Secretary | Jean Greenhalgh | JeanBrit01@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Harlan Evans | 713-797-6468 | harlanj42@sbcglobal.net

Clearing House: David Sarkozi | 713-412-4409 | david@sarkozi.net

Swifts: Pam Smolen | pjasmolen@att.net

Membership: Michael Honel | 713-432-1985 | michaelhonel@sbcglobal.net

Field Trips: Volunteer needed

Spoonbill Editor: Larry Dybala | 713-923-4040 | larrydybala@gmail.com

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

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

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