

The Spoonbill

A Publication of the Ornithology Group (OG)
of the Houston Outdoor Nature Club

January 2005
Vol. 54 No. 1

January Meeting

Monday, January 10, 2004 -- 7:00 p.m.
Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet, Houston

Learning Corner – 6:30 p.m.:

Bird Identification: Field Marks

-- by **David Poteet and Rob Thacker**

Program by June Osborne

Editor, *Wild Bird Magazine*

Other Events

Sat., January 1: Cypress Creek CBC
leader – Fred Collins

Sun., January 2: Buffalo Bayou CBC
leader – Bob Honig

Sat., Jan. 15: Kingwood Area Field Trip
leader – Damien Carey

**Jan. 29-30: Quarterly Field Trip to
Granger Lake**
leader – Fred Collins

Sat., Feb. 19: Brazoria NWR Field Trip

Sat., Mar. 12: Special OG-HAS Field Trip
leader – Kevin Karlson

Future Meetings in 2005

at Bayland Community Center
except as noted

February 7

March 9 (at Houston Zoo)

-joint meeting with Houston Audubon

April 4

May 2

June – no meeting

July – no meeting

August 1

September 12

October 3

November 7

December 5

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Minutes of the December 6, 2004 Meeting
Bayland Community Center
Attendance: 75

1. **Learning Corner:** Glenn Olson on using native plants to attract birds. Glen shared specimens from his yard to highlight some favorites that do well in this area. Recommended resources include: Martin, Nelson, & Zimosa, *American Guide to Wildlife and Plants, A Guide to Wildlife Food Habits*; N. Wasowski, *Landscaping with Native Texas Plants Region by Region*; B.L. Turner, *Atlas of Native Plants of Texas* (a county guide).
2. Chairman Kathy Farr convened the meeting at 7:08pm by asking for **bird sightings**. Least Grebe at Brazos Bend State Park (BBSP), Cedar Waxwings, Mute Swan, Vermilion Flycatcher, Dark-eyed Junco, Fox and Harris Sparrows, American Goldfinch, Black-billed Cuckoo, Rufous Hummingbird, the regular Osprey along Braes Bayou, Red-Shouldered Hawk in the city, and interesting birds in Hawaii.
3. Bill Godley announced sunset walks to the tower at **Brazos Bend SP** and the closing of the park during hunting season.
4. **Minutes** of the last meeting were approved as printed in *The Spoonbill*.
5. Pat Pease reminded everyone that it is **membership** renewal time. The label of the Outdoor Nature Club newsletter shows membership expiration date.
6. **Newsletter** submission deadline will be December 10.
7. With the convening of the state legislature in January, Mary Dodson encouraged members to watch for **environmental issues**. Dr. David Marrack announced that the National Park Service has allowed the drilling of five wells on South Padre Island National Seashore. He asked for a letter writing campaign to oppose this action. Skip Almoney moved that OG Chair Farr write a letter on behalf of the group. Motion carried unanimously.
8. Glenn Olson announced that on December 18 there will be a “plant rescue” in the **Clear Lake** area to support the Attwater’s Prairie Chicken. He also announced that Anita Teller will lead regular nature walks at **Mercer Arboretum** in 2005.
9. Bill Saulmon reported that those on the **Chappell Hill field trip** saw eight species of sparrows before the rains came. Rather than a group field trip in December, members are encouraged to participate in Christmas Birds Counts. The January 15 trip will be lead by Damien Carey to Kingwood College and East End Park. The quarterly trip to the Granger area will be led by Fred Collins to search for Mountain Plover, longspurs and sparrows.
10. David Sarkozi, compiler for the **Houston CBC**, is replacing two area leaders.
11. Michael Williams introduced the speaker, **Ted Eubanks**, for the program, “Faces of Flight.”
12. Through spectacular close-up photographs of birds, Eubanks shared the impact of individual birds and birdwatching on his life. Eubanks joined OG in 1973 or 1974 before the days of area sanctuaries and state parks. He bemoaned the “curse of the common” and the expression “trash bird” saying that he never tires of seeing the plentiful Northern Cardinal, Carolina Wren, and others that are taken for granted. Noting that food sources move birds, Eubanks related stories of encounters with migrant, winter, and breeding birds. With Bob Behrstock and Ron Weeks he has written a book, now at the publishers, on the birds of the Upper Texas Coast, reminding us that we have a vantage point like no other place.

--Bernice Hotman

About the Ornithology Group

The Ornithology Group (OG) is a division of the Outdoor Nature Club (ONC), a non-profit organization dedicated to greater knowledge about the environment and wildlife of the Upper Texas Coast. The OG is a club of individuals interested in all aspects of birding, including bird identification, listing bird sightings, competing in birding events, and preserving bird habitat. Some members study bird behavior, biology, distribution and migration, while others just enjoy watching birds. The organization is designed to accommodate these diverse birding interests. Monthly meetings and field trips provide an opportunity to interact with and learn from experts in local and international birding.

Chair:	Kathy Farr	713-939-9375
Vice-Chair:	Michael Williams	713-228-9064
Secretary:	Bernice Hotman	713-782-7889
Treasurer:	Iris Poteet	281-492-2659
Clearing House:	David Sarkozi	713-520-5906
Library:	Andy Scott	281-537-9690
Membership:	Pat Pease	713-789-3306

Spoonbill: Al Shultz 281-829-0970
Email: og_spoonbill@earthlink.net

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

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

Chairman's Message

At the December 6 OG meeting a motion was passed that I should comment on OG's behalf against the increased drilling on the Padre Island National Seashore. Here is the memo that I have sent via e-mail and postal service to the Superintendent of the Padre Island National Seashore.

December 10, 2004

TO: Superintendent / O&G EA / all others in charge of decision making on this matter

FROM: Kathy Farr, Chairperson,
The Ornithology Group of the Outdoor Nature Club, Houston, Texas

SUBJECT: Drilling on Padre Island National Seashore

On September 28, 1962, President Kennedy signed into law the creation of an 80-mile long protected seashore that is today the longest undeveloped barrier beach in the world. That beach is the Padre Island National Seashore, and it was established for the protection of rare, endangered, and threatened wildlife, and for the public for recreational uses. In pursuing the creation of this national seashore, Senator Ralph Yarborough opted to leave the mineral rights of these lands in private hands as a compromise to getting this natural treasure saved in a timely fashion. He did not make this compromise in order to leave open the ability for private oil and gas companies to come along years later and destroy this protected habitat through their drilling activities.

As a representative of the 250 members of the Ornithology Group, and with the mandate of that membership to include our voice of dissent with respect to the drilling activities authorized by the government agencies in charge of our Padre Island National Seashore, I herein state our group's strong protest to any further degradation of this Texas treasure by any means.

We are dismayed that those agencies assigned as protectors of our National Seashore would turn out to be the instrument of its destruction by caving into the pressures of companies interested only in their pocketbooks. That you are willing to be instrumental in the destruction of critical habitat for 17 threatened and endangered wildlife species, including the piping plover and five of the world's seven sea turtles is appalling. Since the mineral rights for this area are privately owned, no royalty monies will go to the state of Texas. This means you are allowing private oil and gas companies to destroy our National Seashore with no gain what so ever coming to the state of Texas. All this destruction for what is reported by many reliable sources as a pitifully small amount of natural gas: that used in the United States in a single day.

It is appalling that our Padre Island National Seashore will be converted to an oil and gas superhighway. It is regrettable that the \$39 million income from 800,000 annual visitors who use of this treasure are not sufficient to protect it from unnecessary destruction. This is especially true when access to these reserves with minimal impact on this fragile habitat is possible.

The Ornithology Group endorses the Sierra Club proposition that the State of Texas and the Federal Government buy the mineral rights of the Padre Island National Seashore for permanent protection of this state and national treasure, just as the Bush administration did for the Big Cypress National Preserve in Florida.

--Kathy Farr

FIELD TRIPS

For more information on any of the field trips below, contact field trip coordinator Bill Saulmon at 281-537-6924 or at dean1960@aol.com. You can also check out this season's field trip schedule on the OG website.

Saturday, January 15, 2004: Kingwood Area Field Trip - Nestled along Lake Houston, Kingwood lies between forks of the San Jacinto River. We'll bird Kingwood College and East End Park with Kingwood birding guru Damien Carey. At Kingwood College, the Evan's Gully Trail should provide waterfowl and possible Osprey, Bald Eagle, Winter Wren and Fox Sparrow. We'll then head east on Kingwood Drive to East End Park. In a prairie-like meadow, we could find several sparrow species including LeConte's, Song, Savannah, & Field. We'll also bird a forest area of the park with oaks, magnolia and bald cypress along the San Jacinto River. Join Damien at 8:00 at the Kingwood College tennis courts. To get there from Houston, take US 59 north to the Kingwood Drive exit (the 1st exit after crossing the San Jacinto River). At the stop light, turn left on Kingwood Drive (over the freeway) and proceed until Kingwood Drive ends at Sorters Road. Turn right on Sorters, past the campus. As you approach the next crossing intersection you'll see the tennis courts on your left.

January 29 & 30, 2004: Field Trip to Granger Lake (*This trip is full and has a waiting list*) Join leader Fred Collins on a quest for Mountain Plover, Longspurs, & Sparrows at their winter haven in Texas. Fred is a former President of the Houston Audubon Society and former director of the Nature Discovery Center at Russ Pittman Park. He is currently director of the Kleb Woods Nature Preserve Project in Harris County Precinct 3. We'll meet near Granger on Saturday morning and bird for the day. We'll stay overnight at a nearby motel and then bird Sunday until heading back home to Houston. There will be a trip fee of about \$30 per person. Trip details will be sent to participants after the December meeting.

February 19, 2005: Field Trip to Brazoria NWR - Brazoria NWR is located about 15 miles east of Lake Jackson. The refuge consists of over 43,000 acres of coastal prairie, marsh and lakes, which provides habitat for wintering waterfowl and other birds. There is a 7 mile driving loop in addition to observation platforms, birding trails, picnic and restroom facilities. We'll meet at the refuge visitor center at 8:00. To get there from Houston take Hwy 288 South to Lake Jackson and turn left (East) on FM 2004, then turn right (South) on FM 523, then turn left (East) on CR 227 and look for the refuge sign & entrance road on your right. Remember to bring your insect spray, scope, drinks & lunch or snacks. You won't need rubber boots unless you want to get off the beaten path on your own.

* * * * *

Don't forget about the joint **OG/HAS Field Trip with Kevin Karlson on March 12, 2005**. See Kathy Farr's writeup in the December Spoonbill. Sign-up begins on February 1, 2005, at 10:00 am by calling the HAS office at 713-932-1639. Only the first 40 people to call will be registered for this trip. The cost will be \$50, which includes a bus with restroom and 4 local guides in addition to Kevin. Cold water will be provided but bring your own lunch in a small carry-on since there won't be room for large ice chests. Don't forget insect spray, binoculars, scopes, etc.

FIELD TRIP REPORT

Nov. 20, 2004 Field Trip To Chappell Hill - I awoke early that Saturday morning to thunderstorms and heavy rain. On my drive to Chappell Hill I kept wondering what I was doing out in this weather because I was sure that nobody else would be crazy enough to show up. However, one dedicated OG member (Layton Guinn) and our trip leader (Darrell Vollert) did show up. The rain held off at Clarann Estate in Chappell Hill to let us bird for about 2 hours. We saw 8 species of sparrows (including great looks at a perched Fox Sparrow), Goldfinches, and my first of season Cedar Waxwings. We drove on the Brazos River Road in the rain and added Wilson's Snipe, Brewer Blackbirds and 4 raptors species. In all we had 53 species for the morning. We concluded the morning with a great lunch at the quaint Bever's Cafe in Chappell Hill. I'm sorry the weather caused so many of you to miss it. --Bill Saulmon

Finding the Unexpected

It was clear and chilly that late winter day in 1998 as I left the office in west Houston. On the way home, I decided to make a quick stop at Cullinan Park near the Sugar Land Airport. Its lovely little lake is home for many water-loving birds – especially at this time of year. I noticed a young teenager leaning over the south side of the walkway, hands shielded over his eyes, staring intently at the lake. As I approached him, I looked into the shallow water and nearly unbroken vegetation and saw nothing of interest. “Hi, young man!,” I offered. “You seem intent on something in the water. May I ask what you are looking for?”

“I’m not sure,” he said. “But it’s the smallest bird that I have ever seen in the water here!”

My pulse quickened and my mind flashed back to Masked Ducks that had wintered at Brazos Bend State Park in years past. I peered into the vegetation until, Eureka!, a small cinnamon bird popped into view.

“What’s your name,” I asked. “Justin,” he replied. “Well, young man, consider yourself remarkable. Tonight we will put this sighting of yours on the rare bird alert. In 24 to 72 hours this place will be awash with birders from all over our area and beyond.” Within a day or so, we returned to check it all out and, as expected, there were nearly a dozen birders from across the U.S. delighting to their new “lifer.” Justin was quite deservedly pleased with his find. By early March the vegetation had grown to a foot high; finding the bird was nearly impossible.

To my knowledge there have been no sightings of this species in our area since 1998. Unlike his cousin the Ruddy Duck who prefers open water, this little wonder loves the vegetation and, therefore, could be right under our nose and we would not know it. Don’t give up, and Happy Hunting! --Bill Godley

From The Spoonbill's Past

Compiled by Skip Almoney

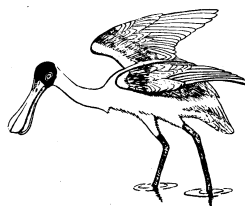
Forty Years Ago

January 2 (Saturday) –

Houston Christmas Count

At the last meeting Dr. Dave Marrack announced that we are quite a bit short of the number of participants for this count as compared to last year when 65 people made a record count for Houston of 192 species. If you can go out into the field for even a few hours this day, your help will be much appreciated.

For all newcomers taking part in any or all of the counts, remember to bring plenty of food for the day, clothing enough to keep dry and/or warm and 50¢ to give to the compiler. This charge is a requirement of the Audubon Society to help defray the expense of compiling all the count records throughout the country for publishing in Audubon Field Notes. Houston Christmas Count participants are reminded to bring a “covered dish” and clean shoes to the Snyder's home. The dish may be anything convenient for you to bring in your car that will keep throughout the day and, if needed, be heated that night. The shoes are a consideration of our host and hostess. Also, we want to remind all not to drive on the Snyder's lawn.



THE
SPOONBILL

November 2004 Clearing House

By David Sarkozi -- david@sarkozi.net -- phone 713-412-4409

Lots of interesting birds this month, even though only 133 species were reported. (The checklist shows 188 species to be not rare for the whole month of November.) The top ten most abundant species were: White-faced Ibis, Laughing Gull, Greater White-fronted Goose, dowitcher sp, Snow Goose (white phase), Gadwall, Rock Pigeon, American Avocet, Mourning Dove, and American Coot.

An amazing seventeen very rare or new records were reported: Pacific Loon, Least Grebe, Swallow-tailed Kite, Semipalmated Sandpiper, American Woodcock, California Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Least Flycatcher, Great Kiskadee, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Northern Parula, American Redstart, and Yellow-headed Blackbird.

Reports we received from: Al and Kathie Shultz, Bill and Jean Harwell, Bob & Maggie Honig, Bolivar Bird Survey, David Sarkozi, Dennis Shepler, Eric Carpenter, Larry Carpenter, Jim Hinson, Howard Laidlaw, Margot Laidlaw, Jan and Will Risser, John O'Brien, Kathy Reiser, Lacey Ogburn, Mike Austin, Richard Rulander, Ron Weeks, Matt Whitbeck, Colin Shields, and Paul Charland.

Species that are listed as abundant to uncommon for the whole month are summarized. Records for rare to vagrant status are listed in full. Those records that are very rare for that week of the year are in bold, those that are new for that week of the year are bold and underlined.

Please enter your reports via the OG website at www.ornithologygroup.org You can also send reports to me via regular mail and e-mail.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck birds=2 reports=1
Greater White-fronted Goose birds=1,076 reports=4
Snow Goose birds=171 reports=4
Snow Goose (Blue phase) birds=100 reports=1
Snow Goose (White phase) birds=501 reports=2
Wood Duck birds=4 reports=1
Gadwall birds=320 reports=4
American Wigeon birds=44 reports=3
Mallard birds=5 reports=2
Mottled Duck birds=56 reports=3
Blue-winged Teal birds=6 reports=1
Northern Shoveler birds=112 reports=3
Northern Pintail birds=55 reports=3
Green-winged Teal birds=2 reports=1
Redhead birds=50 reports=2
Ring-necked Duck birds=16 reports=1
Lesser Scaup birds=10 reports=1
Common Goldeneye 11/25
Brazoria(Quintana) 3 Ron Weeks
Red-breasted Merganser 11/14
Galveston(East Beach) 2 Mike Austin
Ruddy Duck birds=65 reports=2
Northern Bobwhite birds=16 reports=2
Pacific Loon 11/14 Galveston(Texas City) 5 Mike Austin
Common Loon birds=3 reports=1
Least Grebe 11/6 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 1 Richard Rulander
Pied-billed Grebe birds=38 reports=5
American White Pelican birds=188 reports=5
Brown Pelican birds=77 reports=1
Neotropic Cormorant birds=52 reports=3

Double-crested Cormorant birds=35 reports=5
cormorant sp birds=2 reports=1
Anhinga birds=2 reports=1
Great Blue Heron birds=26 reports=9
Great Egret birds=52 reports=9
Snowy Egret birds=61 reports=7
Little Blue Heron birds=3 reports=2
Tricolored Heron birds=7 reports=3
Reddish Egret birds=1 reports=1
Cattle Egret birds=70 reports=4
Black-crowned Night-Heron birds=2 reports=1
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron birds=1 reports=1
White Ibis birds=153 reports=4
White-faced Ibis birds=2,000 reports=1
Roseate Spoonbill birds=25 reports=5
Black Vulture birds=10 reports=2
Turkey Vulture birds=80 reports=7
Osprey birds=3 reports=1
Swallow-tailed Kite 11/20 Harris(IH10 at White Oak Bayou) 1 Bill and Jean Harwell
White-tailed Kite birds=11 reports=2
Bald Eagle birds=12 reports=3
Northern Harrier birds=23 reports=5
Cooper's Hawk birds=3 reports=3
Accipiter sp birds=1 reports=1
Red-shouldered Hawk birds=5 reports=3
Red-tailed Hawk birds=24 reports=8
Crested Caracara birds=12 reports=4
American Kestrel birds=20 reports=6
Merlin birds=1 reports=1
Clapper Rail birds=1 reports=1
Common Moorhen birds=55 reports=2
American Coot birds=240 reports=7

Sandhill Crane birds=28 reports=4
Black-bellied Plover birds=47 reports=2
Snowy Plover 11/14 Galveston(East Beach) 1 Mike Austin
Wilson's Plover 11/14 Galveston(East Beach) 1 Mike Austin
Semipalmated Plover birds=2 reports=1
Piping Plover 11/14 Galveston(East Beach) 2 Mike Austin
Killdeer birds=165 reports=7
American Oystercatcher birds=21 reports=3
Black-necked Stilt birds=20 reports=1
American Avocet birds=276 reports=3
Greater Yellowlegs birds=41 reports=7
Lesser Yellowlegs birds=1 reports=1
Willet birds=95 reports=2
Spotted Sandpiper birds=6 reports=2
Long-billed Curlew birds=11 reports=2
Marbled Godwit birds=150 reports=1
Ruddy Turnstone birds=103 reports=1
Sanderling birds=139 reports=2
Semipalmated Sandpiper 11/20 Galveston(HAS Bolivar Sanctuaries) 1 Bolivar Bird Survey
Western Sandpiper birds=2 reports=1
Least Sandpiper birds=5 reports=1
peep sp 11/7 Waller(KPC HQ & vicinity) 10 Bob & Maggie Honig
Dunlin birds=10 reports=1
Short-billed Dowitcher birds=1 reports=1
Long-billed Dowitcher birds=51 reports=2
dowitcher sp birds=560 reports=3
American Woodcock 11/6 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 1

Al Shultz, 11/25 Harris(Memorial Park) 1 John OBrien
 Laughing Gull birds=1,407 reports=5
 Franklin's Gull 11/25 Brazoria(Quintana) 1 Ron Weeks
 Ring-billed Gull birds=44 reports=4
California Gull 11/14 Galveston(East Beach) 15 Mike Austin
 Herring Gull birds=32 reports=2
Lesser Black-backed Gull 11/24 Brazoria(Quintana) 1 Ron Weeks, 11/25 Brazoria(Quintana) 2 Jan and Will Risser
 Caspian Tern birds=7 reports=2
 Royal Tern birds=36 reports=2
 Common Tern birds=2 reports=1
 Forster's Tern birds=74 reports=2
 Black Skimmer birds=51 reports=2
 Rock Pigeon birds=297 reports=3
 Eurasian Collared-Dove birds=19 reports=1
 White-winged Dove birds=28 reports=2
 Mourning Dove birds=247 reports=8
 Inca Dove birds=2 reports=1
 Common Ground-Dove birds=2 reports=2
 Groove-billed Ani birds=1 reports=1
 Barn Owl birds=1 reports=1
 Eastern Screech-Owl birds=1 reports=1
 Great Horned Owl birds=2 reports=2
 Common Nighthawk 11/5 Harris(Houston Inner Loop) 1 David Sarkozi, 11/24 Harris(Houston Inner Loop) 1 David Sarkozi, 11/28 Harris(Dixie Farm Rd. s. Beamer Rd.) 1 Mike Austin
Buff-bellied Hummingbird 11/29 Galveston(1009 Myrtlewood Dr., Friendswo) 1 Mike Austin
 Rufous Hummingbird birds=3 reports=3
 Belted Kingfisher birds=9 reports=3
 Red-headed Woodpecker birds=3 reports=3
 Red-bellied Woodpecker birds=46 reports=10
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker birds=4 reports=2
 Downy Woodpecker birds=23 reports=5
 Northern Flicker birds=10 reports=4
 Pileated Woodpecker birds=7 reports=3
Least Flycatcher 11/24 Brazoria(Quintana) 1 Ron Weeks, 11/25 Brazoria(Quintana) 1 Ron Weeks
 Eastern Phoebe birds=88 reports=13
 Vermilion Flycatcher 11/3 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 Jim Hinson
Great Kiskadee 11/11 Harris(Katy Prairie - Katy hockley & Sharp Rd) 2 Howard Laidlaw. Margot Laidlaw

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 11/7 Waller(KPC HQ & vicinity) 3 Bob & Maggie Honig,
11/20 Galveston(HAS Bolivar Sanctuaries) 1 Bolivar Bird Survey, 11/20 Harris(West Harris County) 1 Bill and Jean Harwell
Fork-tailed Flycatcher 11/9 Chambers(Anahuac NWR) 1 Whitbeck, Shields, Charland
 Loggerhead Shrike birds=42 reports=7
 Blue-headed Vireo birds=2 reports=1
 Blue Jay birds=40 reports=7
 American Crow birds=23 reports=5
 Horned Lark birds=4 reports=2
 Tree Swallow 11/7 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 1 Kathy Reiser
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow 11/7 Harris(West Harris Co.) 5 Mike Austin
 Barn Swallow 11/20 Galveston(HAS Bolivar Sanctuaries) 2 Bolivar Bird Survey
 Carolina Chickadee birds=17 reports=4
 Tufted Titmouse birds=18 reports=3
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 11/7 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 Mike Austin, 11/10 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 5 Howard Laidlaw, Jim Hinson
 Brown Creeper birds=1 reports=1
 Carolina Wren birds=60 reports=8
 Bewick's Wren 11/7 Waller() 1 Mike Austin
 House Wren birds=21 reports=5
 Winter Wren birds=2 reports=2
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet birds=62 reports=7
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher birds=7 reports=4
 Eastern Bluebird birds=25 reports=3
Hermit Thrush 11/7 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 Mike Austin, 11/25 Harris(Memorial Park) 35 John OBrien
 American Robin birds=98 reports=4
 Gray Catbird birds=1 reports=1
 Northern Mockingbird birds=43 reports=8
 European Starling birds=543 reports=7
 American Pipit birds=22 reports=4
 Sprague's Pipit 11/7 Harris(West Harris Co.) 1 Mike Austin
 Cedar Waxwing 11/25 Brazoria(Quintana) 3 Ron Weeks
Blue-winged Warbler 11/13 Galveston(High Island) 1 Skip Almoney
 Orange-crowned Warbler birds=19 reports=7
Northern Parula 11/21 Brazoria(Bobcat Woods, San

Bernard NWR) 1 Kreg Ellzey, Charlie Lyon
 Yellow-rumped Warbler birds=112 reports=8
 Pine Warbler birds=103 reports=6
 Black-and-White Warbler 11/28 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 1 Kathy Reiser
American Redstart 11/3 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 Jim Hinson, 11/20 Galveston(HAS Bolivar Sanctuaries) 1 Bolivar Bird Survey
 Common Yellowthroat birds=6 reports=3
 warbler sp birds=1 reports=1
 Chipping Sparrow birds=2 reports=2
 Vesper Sparrow 11/7 Harris(West Harris Co.) 2 Mike Austin, 11/7 Waller() 1 Mike Austin
 Lark Bunting 11/3 Chambers(Anahuac NWR) 1 M. Whitbeck
 Savannah Sparrow birds=161 reports=5
 Le Conte's Sparrow birds=1 reports=1
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow birds=2 reports=1
 Song Sparrow 11/6 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 4 Al Shultz
 Lincoln's Sparrow birds=4 reports=2
 White-throated Sparrow birds=24 reports=4
 White-crowned Sparrow birds=3 reports=1
 sparrow sp birds=6 reports=1
 Dark-eyed Junco 11/25 Brazoria(Quintana) 2 Ron Weeks
 Northern Cardinal birds=26 reports=6
 Indigo Bunting birds=3 reports=3
 Red-winged Blackbird birds=554 reports=6
 Eastern Meadowlark birds=96 reports=4
Yellow-headed Blackbird 11/7 Waller(KPC HQ & vicinity) 25 Bob & Maggie Honig
 Common Grackle birds=202 reports=2
 Boat-tailed Grackle birds=27 reports=2
 Great-tailed Grackle birds=379 reports=6
 Brown-headed Cowbird birds=805 reports=4
 blackbird sp birds=1,000 reports=1
 Purple Finch 11/25 Harris(Memorial Park) 1 John OBrien
 House Finch birds=10 reports=3
 American Goldfinch 11/6 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 2 Al Shultz, 11/11 Harris(Bear Creek Park, Houston) 30 Howard laidlaw, Jim Hinson, 11/25 Brazoria(Quintana) 2 Ron Weeks
 House Sparrow birds=51 reports=3

Taxonomic Note: Beginning with this issue, the Clearing House follows the sequence of bird names established by recent supplements to the *Check-List of North American Birds* published by the American Ornithological Union (AOU) in 2003 and 2004. The most significant change to this sequence is that waterfowl and quail are placed at the beginning of the list, ahead of loons, grebes, pelicans and waders. Taxonomic revisions are an ongoing and understandably controversial issue in the birding community. While scientific study provides new insights into the kinship and ecology of birds, the ever-changing nomenclature can create confusion and frustration when field guides, checklists and records follow different standards. *The Spoonbill* apologizes if the new order seems annoying, but hopes that this adoption will help readers to become accustomed to it as it is phased into wider use. *-Editor*

Outdoor Nature Club
Ornithology Group
P.O. Box 270894
Houston TX 77277-0894

Comments or suggestions for ***The Spoonbill?***
How about a story or news item?

E-mail: og_spoonbill@earthlink.net

TO START OR RENEW A MEMBERSHIP:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Family</i>
ONC Annual Dues:	\$ 8.00	\$ 15.00
OG Annual Dues:	\$ 14.00	\$ 19.00
Total:	\$ 22.00	\$ 34.00

Send dues to:
Outdoor Nature Club
PO Box 270894
Houston TX 77277-0894

Membership questions? Contact Pat Pease....
phone 713-789-3306
popese@aol.com

****** Time to Renew ******

Membership dues are paid on a calendar year basis. Unless you have just renewed (or have joined since October 1), your membership expires at the end of 2004.

Dues payable are the total of the OG and ONC amounts shown at left, for either single or family membership. Thanks for paying promptly!

Share a Story!

Do you have a birding story, memory, observation, comment or news item to share with other readers of *The Spoonbill*?

It's **your** newsletter – please consider submitting something. Over the past year, *The Spoonbill* has included items sent in by 17 members. If you were not among them, why not join in?