



The Spoonbill

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

March 2005
Vol. 54 No. 3

March Meeting

-- *Joint meeting of the OG and
Houston Audubon Society* --

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Brown Auditorium, Houston Zoo
7:00 p.m. social
7:30 p.m. meeting

Featured Speaker: Kevin Karlson

"Shorebirds: Amazing Global Wanderers"

Kevin Karlson, noted wildlife photographer and shorebird expert, is a very popular speaker on a return visit to Houston. Shorebirds, the topic of his talk, are his special interest. He is currently developing a new shorebird field guide, with co-authors Richard Crossley and Michael O'Brien, based on a simplified method of identification. The book is due to be available later this year.

Kevin's photographs have appeared in books, magazines and CD-ROMs, and he is author of numerous articles on birding and bird photography. He serves on the advisory board of *Wild Bird Magazine*, and is photo editor of the new birding journal, *North American Birds*.

Kevin is currently a resident of Cape May County, NJ, and an active member of the Cape May birding community and the New Jersey Bird Records Committee. He is the founder and president of Jaeger Tours, Inc.

In addition to speaking at our meeting, Kevin will be leading the March 12 field trip to Bolivar Flats.

Other Events

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

Sat., Mar. 19: **Field Trip to Texas City**

Mar. 31 – Apr. 3: **FeatherFest2005**
Galveston

April 16: **Field Trip to Quintana/Brazoria**

April 23-24: **Field Trip to Fort Hood**

April 13-24: **Great Texas Birding Classic**
<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/gtbc/>

Inside this issue:

About the OG	2
December Minutes	2
Field Trips	3
Buffalo Bayou CBC	3
Trip Reports	4
Chairman's Message	5
Clearing House	5
Membership Form	8

Recent Contributions:

- Donation (anonymous) in memory of Louise Martin
- Old issues of *The Spoonbill* and *Gulf Coast Migrant*
--Jim Morgan

Minutes of the February 7, 2005 Meeting

Bayland Community Center

Attendance 69

1. **Learning Corner:** Al Shultz discussed raptor nests and nesting and distributed a handout.
2. Chairman Kathy Farr called the *meeting to order* at 7:05pm.
3. **Bird sightings** included White-throated Robin, Elegant Trogon, Crimson-collared Grosbeak and Brown Jay in LRGV; Burrowing Owl in Texas City and Granger area; Mountain Plover in Granger area; Rufous Hummingbird in Katy; American Bittern, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Bullock's Oriole, and King Rail at Brazos Bend State Park; Sora at El Franco Lee Park. No sightings yet of Purple Martin.
4. **Minutes** of the January meeting were approved as printed in *The Spoonbill*.
5. Kathy Farr announced that copies of Gary Clark's book, **Texas Wildlife Portfolio**, would be available after the meeting for \$24 with all profits going to the Ornithology Group.
6. Skip Almoney announced that Galveston **FeatherFest** will be March 31 - April 3. The motion was made, seconded and approved to provide copies of the "Upper Texas Coast Checklist" to all registrants in exchange for a booth space. Volunteers are needed to work with field trip leaders, and will receive reduced registration rate for their service. Sign-up sheet at back table, or call or e-mail Skip.
7. The **Nominating Committee** is Skip Almoney, Margaret Simmons, and Bill Saulmon. Skip reported that responses to their recruiting attempts have not been favorable. Members should consider giving to, as well as receiving from, the organization. To volunteer to serve, contact a committee member.
8. Pat Pease reported that the **membership renewal** response has been good thus far. Individual dues are a total of \$22, because the \$8 membership in Outdoor Nature Club must be paid in addition to the \$14 for OG. Expect to be contacted if you paid too little.
9. Al Shultz reminded all that **The Spoonbill** deadline is February 10. Member contributions are especially appreciated. E-mail edition of "The Spoonbill" is available upon request to Al. Margaret Simmons offered thanks and congratulations to Al for the great job he is doing with the newsletter.
10. Mary Dodson presented a lengthy **environmental issues** report. Copies are available online through the ONC website.
11. Kathy Farr announced a **Warren Ranch** tour on February 19 from 3 p.m. to dusk. Reservations may be made online at www.katyprairie.org or by calling 713-523-6125.
12. Bill Saulmon reported on **field trips**. The January 19 trip to the Kingwood Area was well attended. Participants on the quarterly trip to the Granger area with Fred Collins saw Mountain Plover, longspur species, and Short-eared Owls. The February 19 trip will begin at 8 a.m. at the visitors' center at Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge. The March 12 trip with Kevin Karlson is by reservation only and a waiting list is being maintained by HAS. The March 19 trip will be to Texas City Dike and Nature Conservancy property. April 23 -24 trip will be to Fort Hood with a March 1 date to call Bill for reservations.
13. Kathy Farr introduced **Gary Clark** for his program, "In Search of the Connecticut Warbler". Clark, currently newspaper columnist and Dean of North Harris College, "cut his teeth" as a birder in the OG. With the use of slides, Clark presented migrant and resident warblers, common and uncommon. His sighting of the Connecticut Warbler was his 54th warbler species in the US. He reminded us that the common residents are as beautiful and as much to be enjoyed as the elusive, coveted ones.
14. The **meeting adjourned** at 8:30 pm with the opportunity to have the Clarks sign copies of their book.

--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	713-412-4409
Library:	Andy Scott	281-537-9690
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OG website: <http://www.ornithologygroup.org/>

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

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.

March 12, 2005 -- Joint Field Trip With HAS: This is a special field trip, which will be led by noted birding photographer, author and guide Kevin Karlson. Bus transportation to the Bolivar Peninsula will be provided for a fee of \$50. To register for the trip, call the HAS office at 713-932-1639. Attendance will be limited to 40 people. As of Feb. 10 there were still seats available.

March 19, 2005 -- Field Trip to Texas City: We'll bird the Texas City Dike area in the morning and then tour the Nature Conservancy Preserve after lunch. We'll take the 5-mile drive out the Dike into Galveston Bay. Loons, diving ducks, and winter gulls should be seen. We'll also drive down the storm levee (Skyline Drive) to check for pipits, waders and ducks. After lunch in a nearby park, we'll have a guided tour of the Nature Conservancy's Texas City Preserve. This 2,263 acre preserve features rare coastal prairie habitat and is home to the endangered Attwater's Prairie Chicken (which we won't see on this trip). Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the beach park at the base of the Dike. To get there from Houston, take I-45 south to Hwy. 1764 and exit to Texas City. Stay on Hwy 1764, which becomes 9th Avenue, until it dead-ends into Bay Street. Turn right for one block and then turn left on Dike Road. Continue over the levee and look for the small beach park on your right. Bring your lunch, binoculars and scope for a great day on Galveston Bay.

April 16, 2005 -- Field Trip to the Quintana/Brazoria Area: Mike Austin will lead this trip to one of the UTC's great birding areas at the peak of spring migration. We'll bird Quintana in the morning, including the Neotropical Bird Sanctuary, the jetty, and Bryant Beach. Later, we'll bird Brazoria NWR for spring shorebirds. Meet Mike at Oyster Creek Municipal Park at 6:30 AM. To get there from Houston, take Hwy. 288 south to FM 523 near Angleton. Turn west on FM 523 and travel south past the turnoff to Brazoria NWR until you come to the Village of Oyster Creek. The park is at the bridge over Oyster Creek. Bring your lunch, bug spray, etc. You shouldn't need rubber boots.

April 23 & 24, 2005 Field Trip to Fort Hood: We will drive to Temple, TX on Friday (4/22) and spend two nights at a local motel. We'll spend all of Saturday (4/23) and half of Sunday (4/24) on a guided birding tour of Fort Hood. The largest military installation in Texas may not sound like a great birding location, but Fort Hood has been identified by the American Bird Conservancy as a Globally Important Bird Area. Fort Hood is a 219,000-acre military installation, situated within Bell and Coryell counties along the border of the Edwards Plateau with the Crosstimbers and Southern Tallgrass Prairie ecoregions. The Nature Conservancy works with the Army to manage habitat on the base, including areas for Golden-cheeked Warblers and Black-capped Vireos. In fact, the largest populations of these endangered species under a single management authority occur at Fort Hood. Although the vireo and warbler are our target species, other interesting birds also occur on base, including a nice mix of eastern, hill country, and south Texas species, as well as migrants. This trip will be limited to 20 people and a trip fee of \$25 will be charged. To reserve a spot on this trip, contact Bill Saulmon after March 1st by phone or email as listed above.

On January 2, 2005, 100 participants in the **Buffalo Bayou CBC** observed 127 species (results still unofficial until CBC Regional Editor passes judgment). The unofficial species count is 127, tying for the second highest total in the 28-year history of the count (highest = 132 in January 2003), despite a significant drop in number of observers from the past 2 years. (Maybe next year...?) That drop in observers means the end of our 2-year run as the most popular count (i.e., most participants) in Texas. This is the only count in Houston, and our species totals continue to reflect an impressive diversity in an urban setting. The unfortunate trend of habitat loss continues in the portions of the circle between the West Loop and Highway 6. Thankfully, Barker Reservoir and Addicks Reservoir (including Bear Creek Park) on the west side of the count circle and Memorial Park and the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center on the east still provide large, continuous areas of open space and good habitat. New to the count this year (and still subject to acceptance by the CBC Regional Editor at the time of this writing) are Calliope Hummingbird, Couch's Kingbird, Tree Swallow, and Orchard Oriole. An all-time count high for Eurasian Collared-Dove (245) reflects the continued expansion of this species; the all-time high for Neotropic Cormorant (624) may reflect the same for that species. Other all-time highs were set for Little Blue Heron (54), White Ibis (1789), Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (1081), Blue-winged Teal (120), Vermilion Flycatcher (3), Blue-headed Vireo (22), American Robin (25,386 -- a banner year), Gray Catbird (16), Cedar Waxwing (8,044 -- also a banner year),

and American Goldfinch (1,306). Additional species of note include Anhinga; Merlin; Peregrine Falcon; Caspian Tern; Common Ground-Dove; Monk Parakeet; Ruby-throated, Black-chinned, and Rufous (16) Hummingbirds ; Red-headed Woodpecker (23); Red-breasted Nuthatch; Bewick's and Winter Wrens; Golden-crowned Kinglet; Eastern Towhee; Harris's Sparrow; Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco; Rusty Blackbird; Purple Finch; and Pine Siskin. Cackling Goose was listed for the first time, but is not considered a new species for the count, since this species was formerly considered a subspecies of Canada Goose. The complete species list and other data can be found on the CBC web site, <http://www.audubon.org/bird/CBC/>. Thanks again for the second year to Don Greene of Whitewater Experience River Trips who provided a 2 canoes (and himself as a boatman) to survey Buffalo Bayou; and to HANC which has hosted our morning organizational meeting for many years and also hosts our web site (<http://www.houstonarboretum.org/cbc/txbfintro.htm>). --Bob Honig, Compiler

Report of January 15 Field Trip to the Kingwood Area

A cool and clear morning greeted about 24 people who met at the Kingwood College campus for a morning of birding. Our guide, Damien Carey, gave us an introduction to the birding trail that he and others helped the college to develop around a cypress swamp. Although the rubber boots that Damien wore were a hint of things to come, after we had to ford a flooded area some folks wondered if the trail was going through the swamp instead of around it. However, we all survived and enjoyed the birds and Damien's humorous take on nature. Next we drove to Kingwood's East End Park, which borders on Lake Houston for some drier birding. Sparrow numbers were low, but overall we did manage to see about 43 species for the morning.

--Bill Saulmon

Report of January 29-30 Field Trip to Granger Lake

Highlights included 20+ Mountain Plover on CR346 about a half mile west of CR347; a wonderful display of Short-eared Owls from CR356 overlooking Sore Finger WMA about 1/2 mile north of FM971 on both the evenings of the 28th and 29th; and two Burrowing Owls at their Hay Stack "burrows." We were able to show an elderly farmer "one of those ground owls" that he hadn't seen in years. We had to help him from his truck to the scope and back but he was delighted to see the bird in the scope. Moments like that make birding even more enjoyable. We were almost skunked with longspurs. We were only able to find the one large flock on Hunt-Jones Road and they would not venture to our side of the large field. Apparently this flock has been in the same area two-plus weeks now. Sparrows, with the exception of Savannah, were in lower numbers than at any previous visit to the area in my experience.

Alcoa has changed some rules regarding birding access to Alcoa Lake. You must go directly to the visitor center and register, and you are not allowed to get out of your car anywhere in the facility. Although they continue to "welcome birders," it is not a birder-friendly environment. Too bad, since the property has excellent wildlife habitat. It was very foggy on this cold day, with

Bill,

Thanks for another great OG field trip. You and Fred Collins did a great job helping us find our target birds and so many more species. I will always remember this trip as my first time to see the Mountain Plover and Burrowing Owl. We got such good studies of both. In the future, I'll know to be patient and wait for the Burrowing Owl to hop up on a high perch at dusk. The view of the Short-eared Owls and the Northern Harriers in the field below us was great. This was also my first time to see the longspur species, and I will remember the swirling cloud of longspurs that we saw on the horizon if I ever get a chance to go search for longspurs again.

On any trip I often find that there are spectacular views of even ordinary birds. That is what I experienced on the road to the Alcoa plant, when I was able to look down from the road and watch a male Yellow-rumped Warbler flycatching below me. As common as the Yellow-rumped is, I thoroughly enjoyed this unusual view of such a beautiful bird.

Again, thanks for your coordination and planning and patience in sharing your expertise and your spotting scope to help make this trip so successful.

-- Layton Guinn

fog blowing in off the lake like San Francisco Bay. I was surprised to find a large number of wintering Cave Swallows. It always amazes me to see how wildlife finds small isolated patches of habitat to exploit.

We birded the Granger area 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM on the 29th, Granger Area 7:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the 30th, and county roads between Taylor and Thorndale plus Alcoa Lake 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the 30th. Weather both days was foggy in the morning and cold and windy with some light rain in the afternoon. Our only acceptable weather was about 10:00 - 1:00 PM on the 29th, but at least it was not continuous rain. We had 14 observers (4-5 cars) and tallied 88 species.

-- Fred Collins

Chairman's Message

While chasing the Striped-backed Oriole in Brazos Bend State Park, I saw an old ugly raise its head: the unethical behavior of some people who chase birds. It's not correct to label them bird watchers, because their actions are the antithesis of true birding. With total lack of ethics, these folks stormed in upon the bird's location with such determination that Park Volunteers had to corral them before they crashed through the understory to flush the oriole. Threats of Park Ranger citations were even necessary to curb their blatant disregard for the bird's welfare.

Sounds like an extreme case, right? Well, maybe not. There are lots of stories of the lengths to which people will go to see a bird. We've all heard about folks climbing fences into private property, or straying from pathways inappropriately, or throwing sticks or rocks to flush birds. All of these behaviors are unethical, harm habitat, stress birds, and degrade our reputation.

Maybe it's time to review proper birding ethics. The American Birding Association has a complete list ("Code of Birding Ethics," at <http://americanbirding.org/abaethics.htm>). Here are some that deal directly with what was happening at Brazos Bend. --Kathy Farr

- Respect wildlife, the environment, and the rights of others. In any conflict of interest between birds and birders, the welfare of the birds and their environment comes first.
- Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger by exercising restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording, or filming.
- Limit the use of recordings and other methods of attracting birds. Never use such methods in heavily birded areas, or for attracting any species that is Threatened, Endangered, of Special Concern, or is rare in your local area;
- Stay on roads, trails, and paths; keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.
- Practice common courtesy with others. Your exemplary behavior generates goodwill with birders and non-birders alike.
- Respect the interests, rights, and skills of fellow birders, as well as people participating in other legitimate outdoor activities.

Clearing House

by David Sarkozi -- david@sarkozi.net -- 713-412-4409

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 report to me via regular mail and e-mail.

December 2004 -- Reporters this month were: Bill and Bryan Tarbox, Carol McClenaghan, Eric Carpenter, Harry Elliott, Howard Laidlaw, Jim Hinson, Kathie Shultz, Bob and Maggie Honig, Kathy Reiser, Linda Scott, P. Stassi, Richard Rulander, Robert Lookingbill, Ron Weeks, Sue Levy.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck birds=19
reports=3

Greater White-fronted Goose birds=160
reports=3

Snow Goose birds=2,654 reports=5
Gadwall birds=24 reports=2

Mallard birds=10 reports=1
 Mottled Duck birds=10 reports=2
 Blue-winged Teal birds=6 reports=1
 Northern Shoveler birds=232 reports=4
 Northern Pintail birds=166 reports=3
 Green-winged Teal birds=18 reports=2
 Lesser Scaup birds=29 reports=2
 Pied-billed Grebe birds=30 reports=5
 American White Pelican birds=12 reports=1
 Double-crested Cormorant birds=19 reports=3
 Anhinga birds=1 reports=1
 Great Blue Heron birds=14 reports=8
 Great Egret birds=46 reports=6
 Snowy Egret birds=29 reports=4
 Little Blue Heron birds=2 reports=1
 Tricolored Heron birds=1 reports=1
 Cattle Egret birds=37 reports=3
 Black-crowned Night-Heron birds=74 reports=1
 White Ibis birds=238 reports=4
Glossy Ibis 12/28 Harris(George Bush Park) 3 P. Stassi
 White-faced Ibis birds=100 reports=2
 Roseate Spoonbill birds=2 reports=2
 Black Vulture birds=50 reports=5
 Turkey Vulture birds=47 reports=5
 Bald Eagle birds=3 reports=3
 Northern Harrier birds=18 reports=4
 Red-shouldered Hawk birds=6 reports=5
Swainson's Hawk 12/25 Jefferson(along beach 14miles w. of McFaddin NWR) 1 Eric Carpenter
 White-tailed Hawk birds=3 reports=3
 Red-tailed Hawk birds=44 reports=4
 Crested Caracara birds=5 reports=3
 American Kestrel birds=17 reports=3
 Peregrine Falcon birds=1 reports=1
 Common Moorhen birds=20 reports=1
 American Coot birds=32 reports=4
 Sandhill Crane birds=50 reports=3
 Killdeer birds=77 reports=9
 Greater Yellowlegs birds=2 reports=1
 Lesser Yellowlegs birds=6 reports=1
Upland Sandpiper 12/26 Fort Bend(I59, w/in a mile of Wharton County line) 1 Sue Levy
 Long-billed Curlew birds=1 reports=1
 Red Knot 12/13 Brazoria(Quintana Beach) 2 Richard Rulander
 dowitcher sp birds=6 reports=1
 Rock Pigeon birds=25 reports=1
 White-winged Dove birds=1 reports=1
 Mourning Dove birds=37 reports=6

Inca Dove birds=9 reports=2
 Common Ground-Dove 12/25 Harris(Hwy 6 & Rippling Water) 3 P. Stassi
 Barn Owl birds=5 reports=1
Burrowing Owl 12/9 Brazoria(Bryan Beach) 1 Robert Lookingbill, Ron Weeks
 Buff-bellied Hummingbird 12/11 Harris(Houston/Clear Lake) 1 Richard Rulander, 12/18 Chambers(my yard, Anahuac) 1 Linda Scott
 hummingbird sp birds=2 reports=2
 Belted Kingfisher birds=3 reports=3
 Red-headed Woodpecker birds=3 reports=2
 Red-bellied Woodpecker birds=16 reports=8
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker birds=5 reports=5
 Downy Woodpecker birds=6 reports=5
 Northern Flicker birds=3 reports=2
 Pileated Woodpecker birds=1 reports=1
 Least Flycatcher 12/16 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 P. Stassi, 12/25 Jefferson(Sabine Woods) 1 Eric Carpenter
 Eastern Phoebe birds=41 reports=6
 Vermilion Flycatcher birds=1 reports=1
 Couch's Kingbird 12/31 Harris() 1 Harry Elliott
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher 12/12 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 1 Richard Rulander
 Loggerhead Shrike birds=24 reports=4
 White-eyed Vireo birds=1 reports=1
 Blue-headed Vireo birds=1 reports=1
 Blue Jay birds=14 reports=7
 American Crow birds=26 reports=6
 Tree Swallow 12/16 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 P. Stassi, 12/25 Galveston(High Island - Smith Oaks (ponds)) 170 Eric Carpenter
 Carolina Chickadee birds=13 reports=4
 Tufted Titmouse birds=10 reports=4
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 12/11 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 3 Howard Laidlaw
 Carolina Wren birds=22 reports=6
 Bewick's Wren 12/11 Harris(West Harris County) 1 Bill & Bryan Tarbox, 12/31 Harris(Barker Reservoir) 2 Harry Elliott
 House Wren birds=1 reports=1
 Golden-crowned Kinglet birds=2 reports=2
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet birds=16 reports=9

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher birds=6 reports=3
 Eastern Bluebird birds=1 reports=1
 Hermit Thrush birds=4 reports=3
 American Robin birds=78 reports=12
 Northern Mockingbird birds=22 reports=7
 Brown Thrasher birds=1 reports=1
 European Starling birds=48 reports=4
 American Pipit birds=4 reports=2
 Sprague's Pipit birds=1 reports=1
 Cedar Waxwing birds=53 reports=5
 Orange-crowned Warbler birds=3 reports=3
 Magnolia Warbler 12/25 Jefferson(Sabine Woods) 1 Eric Carpenter
 Yellow-rumped Warbler birds=48 reports=9
 Pine Warbler birds=4 reports=4
 Prairie Warbler 12/25 Jefferson(Sabine Woods) 1 Eric Carpenter
 Black-and-White Warbler 12/12 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 2 Kathy Reiser, 12/30 Harris(Barker Reservoir) 1 Harry Elliott
 Common Yellowthroat birds=2 reports=2
 Wilson's Warbler 12/25 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 P. Stassi
 Chipping Sparrow birds=6 reports=3
 Savannah Sparrow birds=10 reports=3
 Song Sparrow birds=1 reports=1
 Swamp Sparrow birds=2 reports=1
 White-crowned Sparrow birds=4 reports=1
 Dark-eyed Junco birds=3 reports=3
 Northern Cardinal birds=40 reports=7
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 12/27 Chambers(my yard in Anahuac) 1 Linda Scott
 Indigo Bunting birds=1 reports=1
 Red-winged Blackbird birds=435 reports=5
 Eastern Meadowlark birds=35 reports=4
 Brewer's Blackbird birds=55 reports=2
 Common Grackle birds=50 reports=1
 Boat-tailed Grackle birds=2 reports=1
 Great-tailed Grackle birds=704 reports=6
 Brown-headed Cowbird birds=30 reports=1
 Purple Finch birds=4 reports=1
 Pine Siskin 12/11 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 2 Howard Laidlaw, 12/16 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 P. Stassi, 12/27 Chambers(my yard in Anahuac) 3 Linda Scott
 American Goldfinch birds=54 reports=5
 House Sparrow birds=4 reports=1

January 2005 -- Reporters this month were: Adam Wood, Bill Tarbox & Ellen Baker, Bob Douat, Brad Lirette, Buffalo Bayou CBC (Bob Honig reporting), Howard Laidlaw, Jim Hinson, John Wilkinson, Kathy Reiser, Keith Kingdon, P. Stassi, Richard Rulander, Ron Weeks, Steve Gross.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck birds=1,118 reports=3
 Greater White-fronted Goose birds=328 reports=3
 Snow Goose birds=1,357 reports=5
 Snow Goose (Blue phase) birds=5 reports=1

Snow Goose (White phase) birds=78 reports=1
 Ross's Goose birds=2 reports=1
 Cackling Goose birds=60 reports=1
 Canada Goose 1/9 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 1 Kathy Reiser, 1/22 Harris(Warren Ranch) 1 Kathy Reiser
 Wood Duck birds=31 reports=1

Gadwall birds=33 reports=3
 Mallard birds=56 reports=1
 Mottled Duck birds=28 reports=1
 Blue-winged Teal birds=143 reports=4
 Northern Shoveler birds=234 reports=5
 Northern Pintail birds=205 reports=4
 Green-winged Teal birds=146 reports=2
 Bufflehead birds=1 reports=1

duck sp. birds=77 reports=1
Least Grebe 1/17 Galveston(Lafitte's Cove) 1 Steve Gross
 Pied-billed Grebe birds=41 reports=6
 Neotropic Cormorant birds=624 reports=1
 Double-crested Cormorant birds=118 reports=5
 cormorant sp birds=52 reports=1
 Anhinga birds=5 reports=2
 American Bittern birds=1 reports=1
 Great Blue Heron birds=87 reports=7
 Great Egret birds=258 reports=6
 Snowy Egret birds=190 reports=6
 Little Blue Heron birds=56 reports=3
 Tricolored Heron birds=4 reports=2
 Cattle Egret birds=214 reports=1
 Green Heron 1/2 Harris(west side of Houston - various) 1 Buffalo Bayou CBC (Bob Honig reporting)
 Black-crowned Night-Heron birds=1 reports=1
 White Ibis birds=1,906 reports=5
Glossy Ibis 1/18 Harris(Longenbaugh Rd, Katy Prairie) 1 Howard Laidlaw, Jim Hinson
 White-faced Ibis birds=115 reports=3
 Roseate Spoonbill birds=7 reports=1
Wood Stork 1/8 Chambers(Anahuac NWR) 3 Adam Wood
 Black Vulture birds=255 reports=4
 Turkey Vulture birds=248 reports=8
 Osprey birds=4 reports=1
 Bald Eagle birds=3 reports=3
 Northern Harrier birds=8 reports=5
 Sharp-shinned Hawk birds=12 reports=2
 Cooper's Hawk birds=11 reports=2
 Accipiter sp. birds=2 reports=1
 Red-shouldered Hawk birds=44 reports=6
 Red-tailed Hawk birds=51 reports=7
 Ferruginous Hawk 1/9 Brazoria(Quintana Beach) 1 Richard Rulander
 Buteo sp. birds=5 reports=1
 Crested Caracara birds=5 reports=2
 American Kestrel birds=19 reports=6
 Merlin birds=5 reports=1
 Peregrine Falcon birds=1 reports=1
 Virginia Rail birds=1 reports=1
 Common Moorhen birds=90 reports=3
 American Coot birds=142 reports=5
 Sandhill Crane birds=5 reports=1
 Killdeer birds=371 reports=5
 Greater Yellowlegs birds=17 reports=2
 Spotted Sandpiper birds=7 reports=1
 peep sp birds=30 reports=1
 Long-billed Dowitcher birds=75 reports=1
 Laughing Gull birds=204 reports=2
 Little Gull 1/15 Brazoria(Quintana Jetty) 1 Brad Lirette
 Ring-billed Gull birds=106 reports=2
 gull sp birds=23 reports=1
 Caspian Tern birds=1 reports=1
 Forster's Tern birds=2 reports=1
 Rock Pigeon birds=1,691 reports=3
 Eurasian Collared-Dove birds=245 reports=1
 Ringed Turtle-Dove birds=12 reports=1
 Streptopelia sp. birds=5 reports=1
 White-winged Dove birds=589 reports=1
 Mourning Dove birds=1,064 reports=9

Inca Dove birds=30 reports=1
 Common Ground-Dove birds=1 reports=1
 Monk Parakeet birds=26 reports=1
 Barn Owl birds=1 reports=1
 Eastern Screech-Owl birds=12 reports=1
 Great Horned Owl birds=2 reports=2
 Barred Owl birds=6 reports=1
Broad-billed Hummingbird 1/10 Harris(NW Houston) 1 Keith Kingdon, 1/10 Harris(NW Houston) 1 Keith Kingdon
Ruby-throated Hummingbird 1/2 Harris(west side of Houston - various) 1 Buffalo Bayou CBC (Bob Honig reporting)
 Black-chinned Hummingbird 1/2 Harris(west side of Houston - various) 1 Buffalo Bayou CBC (Bob Honig reporting)
 Rufous Hummingbird birds=16 reports=1
 hummingbird sp birds=6 reports=1
 Belted Kingfisher birds=11 reports=2
 Red-headed Woodpecker birds=32 reports=3
 Red-bellied Woodpecker birds=296 reports=8
 Yellow-bellied Sapsucker birds=57 reports=4
 Downy Woodpecker birds=126 reports=5
 Northern Flicker birds=34 reports=2
 Pileated Woodpecker birds=26 reports=5
 Least Flycatcher 1/17 Brazoria(NBS, Quintana) 1 Howard Laidlaw, Margot Laidlaw
 Eastern Phoebe birds=162 reports=7
 Vermilion Flycatcher birds=3 reports=1
 Loggerhead Shrike birds=49 reports=4
 White-eyed Vireo birds=3 reports=1
Yellow-throated Vireo 1/3 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 2 P. Stassi
 Blue-headed Vireo birds=30 reports=3
 Blue Jay birds=473 reports=9
 American Crow birds=392 reports=10
 Tree Swallow birds=16 reports=2
 Carolina Chickadee birds=420 reports=8
 Tufted Titmouse birds=192 reports=6
 Red-breasted Nuthatch 1/2 Harris(west side of Houston - various) 2 Buffalo Bayou CBC (Bob Honig reporting)
 Brown Creeper birds=1 reports=1
 Carolina Wren birds=280 reports=7
 Bewick's Wren 1/2 Harris(west side of Houston - various) 1 Buffalo Bayou CBC (Bob Honig reporting)
 House Wren birds=24 reports=1
 Winter Wren birds=3 reports=1
 Sedge Wren birds=6 reports=1
 Marsh Wren birds=2 reports=2
 Golden-crowned Kinglet birds=1 reports=1
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet birds=381 reports=5
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher birds=38 reports=2
 Eastern Bluebird birds=49 reports=5
 Hermit Thrush birds=19 reports=4
 American Robin birds=26,348 reports=10
 Gray Catbird birds=16 reports=1
 Northern Mockingbird birds=368 reports=8
 Brown Thrasher birds=18 reports=2

European Starling birds=1,819 reports=6
 American Pipit birds=59 reports=3
 Cedar Waxwing birds=8,220 reports=5
 Orange-crowned Warbler birds=69 reports=3
Northern Parula 1/25 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 3 P. Stassi
 Yellow-rumped Warbler birds=2,172 reports=9
 Pine Warbler birds=158 reports=5
Bay-breasted Warbler 1/25 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 6 P. Stassi
 Black-and-White Warbler 1/25 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 2 P. Stassi
Prothonotary Warbler 1/3 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 P. Stassi
 Common Yellowthroat birds=4 reports=3
 Wilson's Warbler birds=5 reports=2
 Eastern Towhee birds=1 reports=1
 Chipping Sparrow birds=65 reports=3
 Vesper Sparrow birds=4 reports=1
 Lark Sparrow birds=1 reports=1
 Savannah Sparrow birds=192 reports=4
 Le Conte's Sparrow birds=2 reports=1
 Song Sparrow birds=19 reports=1
 Lincoln's Sparrow birds=41 reports=1
 Swamp Sparrow birds=55 reports=3
 White-throated Sparrow birds=159 reports=3
 Harris's Sparrow 1/2 Harris(west side of Houston - various) 5 Buffalo Bayou CBC (Bob Honig reporting)
 White-crowned Sparrow birds=6 reports=1
 sparrow sp birds=48 reports=1
 Dark-eyed Junco birds=3 reports=2
 Northern Cardinal birds=537 reports=8
Rose-breasted Grosbeak 1/17 Galveston(Lafitte's Cove Nature Preserve) 2 Steve Gross, 1/21 Galveston(Bacliff, Texas) 1 Bob Douat
 Red-winged Blackbird birds=1,263 reports=8
 Eastern Meadowlark birds=89 reports=4
Yellow-headed Blackbird 1/22 Brazoria(SH36 & FM1495) 1 Ron Weeks
 Brewer's Blackbird birds=4 reports=1
 Common Grackle birds=2,999 reports=3
 Boat-tailed Grackle birds=6 reports=1
 Great-tailed Grackle birds=4,041 reports=7
 Brown-headed Cowbird birds=12 reports=2
 blackbird sp. birds=367 reports=1
Orchard Oriole 1/2 Harris(west side of Houston - various) 1 Buffalo Bayou CBC (Bob Honig reporting)
 Purple Finch birds=8 reports=3
 House Finch birds=75 reports=1
 Pine Siskin 1/2 Harris(west side of Houston - various) 5 Buffalo Bayou CBC (Bob Honig reporting), 1/9 Harris(Spring Creek Park) 4 Bill Tarbox & Ellen Baker
 American Goldfinch birds=1,407 reports=7
 House Sparrow birds=571 reports=2

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

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