



# The Spoonbill

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

October 2005  
Vol. 54 No. 8

## October Meeting

**Monday, October 3, 2005 -- 7:00 p.m.**  
**Bayland Community Center**  
**6400 Bissonnet, Houston**

**Learning Corner, 6:30 p.m. -- with Chris Godfrey**  
**Ecology of Bobwhite Quail**

### **Program: Grouse Partners**

Chris Godfrey was given his first Peterson Guide at the age of three, and as a child his heart was captured by game birds and birds of prey - the haunting red eye of the mature Goshawk in particular. With his family, Chris moved to England as a youngster, birding throughout the United Kingdom. He became a licensed falconer at age 15, and continues to fly captive-bred Peregrines for small game.

Attwater's Greater Prairie Chickens grabbed his interest in 1983, and he spent many hours photographing them on their leks at Attwater PC NWR through 1988. He studied Wildlife Management at Texas Tech to be near healthy populations of Lesser Prairie Chickens. In 2001 he joined the North American Grouse Partnership, formed in 1999 by the same conservationists who began the Peregrine Fund, because of his desire to help in the fight against falling grouse populations and the degradation of vital habitat. Chris is the current President of the Texas Chapter of the North American Grouse Partnership.

Chris's goal for the October program is to inform us about the state of all North America's grouse species, conservation efforts on their behalf, and the importance of citizen involvement in their future welfare.

## Other Events

**Wednesday, October 12:**  
**OG midweek birding trip**  
Houston Arboretum (Bill Saulmon)

**Saturday, October 15: OG field trip**  
J.H. Jones St. Park and W.G Jones  
State Forest (Adam Wood)

**Sunday, November 6: OG field trip**  
Bolivar Flats (Clay Taylor)

**Monday, November 7: OG meeting**  
Program: Digiscoping

**Saturday, November 19: OG field trip**  
Katy Prairie (Steve Gross)

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## Minutes of the September 12, 2005 Meeting

Bayland Community Center

Attendance: 44

- 1. Learning Corner:** John Arvin from Gulf Coast Bird Observatory gave a brief account of the observatory and its newsletter, Gulf Crossings. He then talked about bird plumage, with examples from pelagic birds off the Texas coast. Plumage is very important in a bird's life. The first plumage of most birds is down, which protects them and also in some species is a camouflage. Plumage of males, females, and juveniles differ in many species. This difference helps birds find mates and establishes a social status. It also lessens friction among the birds. Feathers are like clothes: they wear out. Feathers are replaced by molt, which takes place after mating when hormone levels drop. He spoke briefly about molt in Yellow-nosed Albatross, frigatebirds, jaegers, skuas, and the storm-petrels.
- 2.** The meeting was *called to order* by chairman Michael Williams. He asked for volunteers to bring refreshments to meetings and to donate monies toward same.
- 3. Bird sightings:** Sage Thrasher seen in Colorado; Black Phoebe off I-10 and Dairy Ashford; Black-necked Stilt at Westbury wetlands; Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Baltimore Oriole.
- 4. Announcements:** El Cielo Festivals in the the state of Tamaulipas, Mexico (butterflies Nov. 3-6; Birding Extravaganza Nov.17-20; Nature Festival Feb. 19-22, 2006) website <http://www.elcielofestival.com/>
- 5.** The minutes of the *August meeting* were approved.
- 6. Membership:** Margret Simmons reported new member Gordon White.
- 7.** No *library* news--Bill Saulmon will take returned books.
- 8.** Al Shultz announced *Spoonbill* news was due by September 17th.
- 9. Environmental issues:** Mary Dodson was not at meeting. However , David Marrack gave a report on a Wal-Mart distribution center near Baytown and the area of the Houston CBC, noting the huge impact it would have on the environment.
- 10. Kathy Farr** reported that the *Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza* in Lake Jackson was a success, even though it rained for 3 hours; 350 people attended. The *TOS conference*, Jan. 13-15, 2006, will be held at the Omni Hotel. Fifty-six rooms are being held for \$69. Kathy asked for volunteers to cover several areas. Fred Collins will be the main speaker Sat. night---telling the history of the Katy Prairie. There will be a three way split of the monies made among the TOS, ONC, and Katy Prairie Conservancy.
- 11. Field Trips:** Adam Wood reported that the Mad Island Marsh Preserve trip was enjoyed by all attending. A Black Tern gave the group excitement until it was properly identified. 52 species were seen. The Quarterly Field Trip to see pelagic birds off the South Padre coast will be Sept. 16-18. Sept. 24th will be the Smith Point Hawk Watch. Time to be there is 8-8:30 am. Update – Jim Stevenson will not be leading the Galveston trip in the Spring of 2006; more on this later. Hermann Park mid-week with Skip Almony.
- 12. Treasury:** Report on the budget of OG given by Jim Winn, with handout copies. All approved.
- 13. Program:** John Arvin was introduced by Bernice Hotman. John spoke first about his new endeavor, "Avian International Monitoring," and asked all to participate. His engaging talk was about the history, the in's and out's, and the birds of Texas Coast pelagic birding trips. Pelagic birds come to land to nest; the rest of their time is spent on the high sea. Prior to the 1990s only a few pelagics were known from Texas as birds that were found dead on the beaches after storms. In the 1990's the hunt for pelagics became more scientific. Today the best location for offshore birding is off South Padre Island, where the narrow continental shelf and upwelling currents provide an abundance of nutrients for birds. With a good boat, experienced leaders, eager participants and cold water, success is assured. However, identifying the birds can be difficult with the boat bobbing and fast-flying birds. Birds seen regularly are storm-petrels, shearwaters, jaegers, boobies and terns. The World Birding center is in charge of the pelagic trips. John Arvin will be on the Sept. 16-18 trip.

--Shirley Mondshine

## 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:	Michael Williams	713-228-9064
Vice-Chair:	Bernice Hotman	713-782-7889
Secretary:	Shirley & Raymond Mondshine	713-774-1413
Treasurer:	Jim Winn	713-464-8057
Clearing House:	David Sarkozi	713-412-4409
Library:	Andy Scott	281-537-9690
Membership:	Margret Simmons	713-776-2511
<i>Spoonbill:</i>	Al Shultz	281-829-0970
	Email:	<a href="mailto:og_spoonbill@earthlink.net">og_spoonbill@earthlink.net</a>

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

## October Field Trip

This month's field trip will be to Jesse H. Jones State Park and W.G. Jones State Forest. Currently many sections of the Jones State Forest are closed, but we should still be able to get in to some good areas. If we are unable to get into Jones State Forest and time permits, we will bird Mercer Arboretum instead. I will be leading us through some interesting habitats like the Bald Cypress swamps in Jesse Jones Park, looking for any migrants that may be around. Red-cockaded Woodpecker and Brown-headed Nuthatch are likely if we get into Jones State Forest. It should be a very pleasant day for birding. So come out for a leisurely stroll through pretty woods looking for birds on a nice October day in southeast Texas. Now that it is the fall and temperatures are nicer, I am planning on staying out most of the day, but you are welcome to leave earlier if you need to.

Meet in the front parking lot by the nature center of Jesse H. Jones State Park at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 15. Jesse H. Jones Park is reached easiest by taking the FM 1960 exit off of US 59 North and taking a left on FM 1960. Once on FM 1960, go through a couple of lights and take a right on Kenswick Drive. Kenswick Drive will take you into the park. The Nature Center will be on your left as you come into the park. We will meet in the parking lot to the right. Make sure to bring your binos, water, snacks, and lunch since I am planning on birding all day. We will be in a forested area, so hats and sun block are not necessary but you may wish to bring them anyway. Bring a scope if you wish, but I don't think it will be very useful in the areas we are going to be birding. Finally, bring raingear in case it rains.

--Adam Wood, OG Field Trip Coordinator 713-515-1692 Birdman\_570@yahoo.com

### Midweek Birding Trip: October 14 at Houston Arboretum

The October 2005 midweek birding trip will be on October 12, 2005 at The Houston Arboretum. The leader for this trip will be Bill Saulmon. He will be at the designated meeting point at 8:30 a.m. and the trip will not last beyond 12 noon. **Note time change from usual 8:00 a.m.** We will be birding the various trails throughout the Arboretum that go through a variety of habitats including forest, meadows, and wetlands. The meeting place will be in front of the Nature Center Building at the Arboretum. The Arboretum is at 4501 Woodway Drive. The entrance is several hundred feet east of the intersection of I-610N (West Loop) and Woodway Drive. After entering the gates to the Arboretum, follow the road around to the parking area at the Nature Center.

#### OG Mid-Week Birding Trips

October 2005	Houston Arboretum
November 2005	Cullinan Park
December 2005	Timbergrove Park
January 2006	Sims Bayou Nature Center
February 2006	Russ Pittman Park
March 2006	Addicks Reservoir
April 2006	Herman Brown Park
May 2006	Hermann Park

### GCBO Hummer Extravaganza -- OG Booth Report

Three hours of rain didn't diminish the crowd at the Hummer Extravaganza on Saturday, Sept 10, though it did concentrate folks in the pavilion with the vendors. The OG booth volunteers did an outstanding job of providing information and answering questions about our group and birding in general. Thank-yous go out to Jennifer Backo, Jane Campbell, Lynn and John Old, Susan Severance, Michael Williams, and Adam Wood for representing OG well! --Kathy Farr

## Report of August 20, 2005 Field Trip to Mad Island Marsh Preserve

A warm morning but with a nice sea breeze greeted 16 folks who attended this field trip. The breeze helped keep the mosquitoes at bay and the temperature reasonable during the trip. Cathy Porter of The Nature Conservancy was our guide, and she told us how The Nature Conservancy acquired this property, how they are currently managing the property, and their plans for the property in the future. It was interesting to learn that The Nature Conservancy is planning on keeping this property, which differs from the Conservancy's usual policy of acquiring land and managing it for a certain length of time and then selling it to the government for enough money to buy more land and repeat this process.

The trip started with good scope views of ibis, Black-necked Stilts, and Fulvous and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks out in a wet field with a few ponds. We then drove a little way and stopped at a creek to see Common Moorhens, a few Green Herons and one Purple Gallinule. About 100 yards back up the road a few of the participants got good scope views of two perched adult White-tailed Hawks. It was quite a sight. We then proceeded to the visitor center for a snack break. While we snacked we got good looks at Common Nighthawks perched at various places around the visitor center. After the break we drove to two wetland cells and set up scopes at the top of the levee and checked two water-holes for shorebirds. The highlights here included two Wilson's Phalaropes in fresh basic plumage and a molting Black Tern that had a few of us scratching our heads before being comfortable with the identification. We finished the day driving along the intracoastal waterway and had a fleeting glimpse of a Spotted Sandpiper. We ended the day with about 52 species. – *Adam Wood*

### Cracid Exhibit at HMNS

An exhibit on cracids, the bird family of guans, curassows and chachalacas, is coming soon to the Houston Museum of Natural Science. "*Cracids: On Wings of Peril*" will run from October 14 through April 16. This exhibit will contain 40 oil paintings by the British artist Nigel Hughes. The paintings reflect the extraordinary beauty and diversity of a bird family menaced with extinction: of the 50 species of birds in

the family Cracidae, approximately half are considered Threatened or Endangered. The exhibit at HMNS will also include mounted specimens and interactive displays about this important group of birds of the American tropics. (Dr. Dan Brooks, HMNS Curator of Vertebrate Zoology, is also Curator of Wildlife Art and chairman of the Cracid Specialist Group.)

### Chairman's Message

It was great to have people come by the O.G. booth at the Xtreme Hummingbird Xtravaganza on the 10th. It was nice to see people impressed by our booth, by the content of our newsletter, by the ideals and information laid out in our pamphlet, by the utility of our business card, and by our volunteers' expertise and enthusiasm.

It has always been hoped that this outreach will increase our visibility in the community and eventually boost our membership. I have no doubt that this is just what will happen. Sustained outreach will bear fruit. It also exposes us to good things and good people.

Many of you also know that the O.G. would like to have more funds in our general fund. The discourse has been about how these monies can be generated since I became a member.

One idea that has gained momentum of late is to develop an embroidered patch or a series of patches that can be sold at any function where we have a presence ( i.e., the T.O.S. conference in January ). Sales of such items could contribute to our fiscal health and definitely to our visibility. A few minutes of discussion about this idea will be included in the agenda for the October meeting. Your thoughts on the matter will be much appreciated.

--*Michael Williams*

## TOS 2006 Winter Meeting: January 13-15, 2006

by Kathy Farr

The Katy Prairie, west of Houston, is the location of the TOS Winter Meeting, co-sponsored by Houston's Ornithology Group (OG) and the Katy Prairie Conservancy (KPC).

A variety of habitats, including agricultural and depressional wetlands, pastures, riparian creek corridors, and coastal grasslands comprise The Katy Prairie. It supports a tremendous amount of wildlife. An average of 597,000 birds of 196 species were recorded between 1977-1994 in Christmas bird counts, with waterfowl and shorebirds being most numerous. Bald Eagles are reasonably easy to find among the huge flocks of ducks and geese. Several hawk species are numerous. Wintering sparrows are common and comprise an impressive list. There are six wintering wren species. Being on the prairie in winter provides some of the easiest birding possible.

Participants will have the opportunity to bird on private KPC properties, in two local city parks, two local state parks, and one national wildlife refuge. Sighting the endangered Attwater's Prairie Chicken at Attwater PC NWR is possible, and there is a high probability of seeing the Red-cockaded Woodpecker at Jones State Forest. Houston's Bear Creek Park hosts some wonderful winter visitors.

There will be two programs. On Friday night, January 13, Mary Anne Piacentini, Executive Director of the Katy Prairie Conservancy, will speak about the history of KPC's conservation efforts on the Katy Prairie. The keynote speaker for the banquet on Saturday night, January 14, is Fred Collins, "Mr. Katy Prairie," who will speak on the history of the Katy Prairie and its wildlife.

**The Omni Houston Hotel Westside** is holding 50 rooms for this event at \$69 per room, single king or double queen occupancy. Located at 13210 Katy Freeway (I-10) at Eldridge, on the west side of Houston, The Omni is up-scale; rooms include free phone-jack internet connection. There is a breakfast buffet at 6:30 a.m., with field trips starting at 7 a.m. to accommodate. Hotel guests may schedule a van shuttle for up to 8 people to Memorial Drive between Dairy Ashford and Kirkwood where most area restaurants are located.

As a sponsoring group of this meeting, OG needs volunteers for leading field trips, acting as field trip liaisons, helping with registrations, peopling the OG info table, and helping with pre-event administration. Liaisons will be assigned to those field trips in which the leader is unfamiliar with the Katy Prairie and needs a geographical guide. If you know the Prairie, or parts of the Prairie, and are willing to be in charge of leading the group from location to location, this job's for you. Birding expertise is not required! Anyone interested in volunteering please contact Kathy Farr at 713-939-9375 or [kafarr@hal-pc.org](mailto:kafarr@hal-pc.org).

Costs:	Meeting Registration for TOS/OG/KPC members	----	\$40
	Non-members (includes 1 yr TOS membership)	-----	\$65
	Banquet Tickets (no membership required)	-----	\$35

## Clearing House

by David Sarkozi -- [david@sarkozi.net](mailto: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](http://www.ornithologygroup.org) You can also send reports to me via regular mail and e-mail.

**July 2005:** More early shorebirds. Mississippi continued the unusually abundant trend from June. Notables are a Sora from San Bernard NWR and Red-necked Phalarope from Brazoria NWR. Whimbrels seem to have summered over at the Bolivar Flats. **Observers:** Bolivar Bird Count, Charles Whipple, Cin-Ty Lee, David Sarkozi, Don Verser, Dorothy Cooney, Dwayne Litteer, Maggie & Bob Honig, Mike Austin. 124 species were recorded.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck birds=2 reports=1  
 Fulvous Whistling-Duck birds=2 reports=1  
**Mallard 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count**

Mottled Duck birds=10 reports=1  
 American White Pelican birds=1 reports=1  
 Brown Pelican birds=566 reports=1  
 Neotropic Cormorant birds=170 reports=1  
 Double-crested Cormorant 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 5 Bolivar Bird Count  
 Anhinga birds=1 reports=1  
 Magnificent Frigatebird birds=6 reports=1  
 Least Bittern birds=1 reports=1  
 Great Blue Heron birds=22 reports=2  
 Great Egret birds=108 reports=3  
 Snowy Egret birds=39 reports=1  
 Little Blue Heron birds=17 reports=2  
 Tricolored Heron birds=23 reports=3  
 Reddish Egret birds=37 reports=1  
 Cattle Egret birds=20 reports=1  
 Green Heron birds=2 reports=1  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron birds=8 reports=2  
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron birds=28 reports=3  
 White Ibis birds=104 reports=1  
 White-faced Ibis birds=3 reports=1  
 Roseate Spoonbill birds=52 reports=1

**Osprey 7/2 Galveston(Dickinson) 1 Mike Austin**  
 Swallow-tailed Kite 7/23 Liberty(Between Dayton/Liberty) 8 Dwayne Litteer  
 White-tailed Kite birds=3 reports=1  
**Mississippi Kite 7/26 Harris(Houston- Hammerly E of Gessner) 1 Bob Honig, 7/31 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 8 Charles Whipple**

Northern Harrier 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count  
 Swainson's Hawk 7/1 Harris(Friendswood) 1 Mike Austin, 7/29 Harris(H 10 and loop 610 West) 1 David Sarkozi  
 Crested Caracara birds=3 reports=1  
 Clapper Rail birds=29 reports=1  
 King Rail birds=8 reports=1

**Sora 7/18 Brazoria(San Bernard NWR) 1 Dorothy Cooney**  
 Purple Gallinule birds=7 reports=2  
 American Coot birds=3 reports=1  
 Black-bellied Plover birds=232 reports=5  
 Snowy Plover 7/30 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 2 Cin-Ty Lee  
 Wilson's Plover birds=300 reports=3  
 Semipalmated Plover birds=160 reports=6  
 Piping Plover 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 6 Bolivar Bird Count, 7/23 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 10 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 5 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 50 Cin-Ty Lee  
 Killdeer birds=63 reports=5  
 American Oystercatcher birds=17 reports=3  
 Black-necked Stilt birds=78 reports=4  
 American Avocet 7/21 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 15 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 1 Cin-Ty Lee  
 Greater Yellowlegs 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count, 7/21 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 60 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/23 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 1 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 20 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 5 Cin-Ty Lee

Lesser Yellowlegs birds=7 reports=3  
 Willet birds=501 reports=5  
 Spotted Sandpiper 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 2 Bolivar Bird Count, 7/30 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 1 Cin-Ty Lee  
 Upland Sandpiper 7/31 Harris(Friendswood) 1 Mike Austin

**Whimbrel 7/2 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 2 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 3 Bolivar Bird Count, 7/23 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 1 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 1 Cin-Ty Lee**

Long-billed Curlew birds=174 reports=4  
 Marbled Godwit 7/2 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 50 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 100 Bolivar Bird Count, 7/23 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 80 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 10 Cin-Ty Lee  
 Ruddy Turnstone birds=40 reports=3

**Red Knot 7/2 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 6 Cin-Ty Lee**  
 Sanderling birds=162 reports=4  
 Semipalmated Sandpiper 7/21 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 45 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 100 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 5 Cin-Ty Lee

Western Sandpiper birds=6,905 reports=6  
 Least Sandpiper 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count, 7/21 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 50 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/23 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 40 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 80 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 100 Cin-Ty Lee

**Baird's Sandpiper 7/21 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 2 Cin-Ty Lee**  
 Dunlin 7/16 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 1 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/23 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 1 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 1 Cin-Ty Lee

Stilt Sandpiper 7/21 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 3 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 3 Cin-Ty Lee  
**Short-billed Dowitcher 7/2 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 50 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 298 Bolivar Bird Count, 7/21 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 8 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/23 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 300 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 600 Cin-Ty Lee**

Long-billed Dowitcher 7/21 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 40 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 1 Cin-Ty Lee  
**Wilson's Phalarope 7/21 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 4 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 1 Cin-Ty Lee**

**Red-necked Phalarope 7/16 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 1 Cin-Ty Lee**  
 Laughing Gull birds=581 reports=1  
 Ring-billed Gull birds=13 reports=1  
 Herring Gull birds=5 reports=1

Caspian Tern birds=11 reports=1  
 Royal Tern birds=118 reports=1  
 Sandwich Tern birds=23 reports=1  
**Common Tern 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 25 Bolivar Bird Count**

Forster's Tern birds=20 reports=1  
 Least Tern birds=61 reports=1  
 Black Skimmer birds=38 reports=1  
 Rock Pigeon birds=12 reports=1  
 Eurasian Collared-Dove birds=38 reports=1  
 White-winged Dove birds=4 reports=1  
 Mourning Dove birds=22 reports=1

Inca Dove birds=6 reports=1  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo birds=1 reports=1  
 Common Nighthawk birds=6 reports=1  
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird birds=7 reports=2  
 Archilochus sp birds=3 reports=1  
 hummingbird sp birds=2 reports=2  
 Belted Kingfisher birds=1 reports=1  
 Red-bellied Woodpecker birds=2 reports=1

**Ladder-backed Woodpecker 7/24 Brazoria(Quintana NBS) 1 Don Verser, 7/30 Brazoria(Quintana NBS) 1 Don Verser**  
 Downy Woodpecker birds=3 reports=1  
 Pileated Woodpecker birds=1 reports=1

**Least Flycatcher 7/24 Galveston(Dos Vacas Muertas) 1 Don Verser, 7/30 Brazoria(Quintana Island) 2 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Laffite's Cove) 1 Don Verser, 7/30 Galveston(Dos Vacas Muertas) 1 Don Verser**

Western Kingbird birds=1 reports=1  
 Eastern Kingbird birds=11 reports=1  
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher birds=20 reports=1  
 Loggerhead Shrike birds=27 reports=1  
 Red-eyed Vireo birds=1 reports=1  
 Horned Lark birds=15 reports=1  
 Purple Martin birds=23 reports=1

**Northern Rough-winged Swallow 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count**  
 Cliff Swallow birds=4 reports=1  
 Barn Swallow birds=65 reports=1  
 Tufted Titmouse birds=1 reports=1  
 Carolina Wren birds=4 reports=1

**Gray Catbird 7/16 Galveston(Bolivar Penninsula) 2 Bolivar Bird Count**  
 Northern Mockingbird birds=37 reports=1  
 European Starling birds=179 reports=1  
**Prairie Warbler 7/24 Galveston(Dos Vacas Muertas) 1 Don Verser, 7/30 Galveston(Dos Vacas Muertas) 1 Don Verser**

Black-and-white Warbler 7/24 Brazoria(Quintana NBS) 1 Don Verser, 7/24 Galveston(Dos Vacas Muertas) 1 Don Verser, 7/24 Galveston(Laffite's Cove) 1 Don Verser, 7/30 Brazoria(Quintana Island) 1 Cin-Ty Lee, 7/30 Galveston(Laffite's Cove) 3 Don Verser, 7/30 Galveston(Dos Vacas Muertas) 1 Don Verser

Prothonotary Warbler birds=2 reports=2  
**Scarlet Tanager 7/30 Brazoria(Quintana Island) 1 Don Verser**  
 Seaside Sparrow birds=25 reports=1  
 Northern Cardinal birds=17 reports=2

Herring Bunting birds=1 reports=1  
 Painted Bunting birds=3 reports=2  
 Dickcissel birds=2 reports=2  
 Red-winged Blackbird birds=49 reports=1  
 Eastern Meadowlark birds=66 reports=2  
 Common Grackle birds=4 reports=1

Boat-tailed Grackle birds=1 reports=1  
 Great-tailed Grackle birds=158 reports=1  
 Brown-headed Cowbird birds=2 reports=1  
 Orchard Oriole birds=20 reports=1  
 House Sparrow birds=81 reports=1

**August 2005: Observers:** Al Shultz, Bill Saulmon, Bob & Maggie Honig, Bolivar Bird Count, Cindy Douglass, Cin-Ty Lee, Don Verser, Dr. Stephen Williams, Jim Hinson, John Arvin, John Berner, John Whittle, Johnnie Greene, Kathy Farr, Linda Scott, Marion Dickson, Mike Austin, Richard Rulander, Smith Point Hawk Watch (SPHW). 127 Species were recorded.



Black-bellied Whistling-Duck birds=9 reports=2  
Mallard 8/21 Harris(San Jacinto Monument) 1 John Berner  
**Mottled Duck birds=3 reports=1**  
Northern Bobwhite birds=8 reports=1  
Pied-billed Grebe 8/21 Harris(San Jacinto Monument) 6 John Berner  
American White Pelican birds=4 reports=2  
Brown Pelican birds=174 reports=2  
Neotropic Cormorant birds=132 reports=4  
Double-crested Cormorant 8/28  
Harris(BraesBayouHermannPk-BufferSpd) 2 Bob Honig  
Magnificent Frigatebird birds=22 reports=4  
Great Blue Heron birds=21 reports=4  
Great Egret birds=185 reports=4  
Snowy Egret birds=200 reports=6  
Little Blue Heron birds=28 reports=3  
Tricolored Heron birds=48 reports=3  
Reddish Egret birds=29 reports=2  
Cattle Egret birds=527 reports=4  
Green Heron birds=5 reports=3  
Black-crowned Night-Heron birds=5 reports=3  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron birds=45 reports=4  
White Ibis birds=243 reports=5  
Roseate Spoonbill birds=76 reports=3  
Wood Stork birds=3 reports=1  
Black Vulture birds=6 reports=1  
Turkey Vulture birds=13 reports=3  
**Osprey 8/16 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 8/17 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 8/21 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count, 8/28 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW**  
Swallow-tailed Kite 8/16 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 8 SPHW, 8/17 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 9 SPHW, 8/20 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 17 SPHW, 8/20 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 4 SPHW, 8/21 Chambers(Smith Point) 2 John Berner, 8/23 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 2 SPHW, 8/28 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 21 SPHW  
White-tailed Kite birds=5 reports=4  
Mississippi Kite birds=4,435 reports=6  
Northern Harrier 8/21 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 8/28 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW  
**Cooper's Hawk 8/7 Chambers(SPHW) 1 Bill Saulmon, 8/19 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 8/20 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 5 SPHW, 8/21 Chambers(Smith Point) 1 John Berner, 8/21 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 2 Bolivar Bird Count, 8/23 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 8/28 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 5 SPHW**  
Accipiter sp. 8/20 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 8/20 Galveston(High Island - Boy Scout Woods) 1 John Arvin  
Red-shouldered Hawk birds=3 reports=2  
**Broad-winged Hawk 8/7 Chambers(SPHW) 6 Bill Saulmon, 8/7 Chambers(Smith Point) 6 Bill Saulmon, 8/16 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 3 SPHW, 8/17 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 6 SPHW, 8/19 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 26 SPHW, 8/20 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 17 SPHW, 8/20 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 113 SPHW, 8/21 Chambers(Smith Point) 5 John Berner, 8/23 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 20 SPHW, 8/28 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 47 SPHW**  
Swainson's Hawk 8/16 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 4 SPHW, 8/19 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 8/20 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 8/21 Chambers(Smith Point) 7 John Berner, 8/28 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 10 SPHW  
Red-tailed Hawk 8/1 Chambers(my yard Anahuac) 1 Linda Scott, 8/21 Chambers(Smith Point) 2 John Berner, 8/27 Waller(Hebert Rd bet Penick & FM 362) 1 Bob & Maggie Honig, 8/28 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 Johnnie Greene  
Buteo sp. 8/20 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW  
Crested Caracara birds=2 reports=1  
American Kestrel 8/28 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW  
**Peregrine Falcon 8/1 Harris(Briar Forest at W Sam Houston) 1 Don Verser**  
Clapper Rail birds=22 reports=1  
King Rail birds=1 reports=1  
Black-bellied Plover birds=228 reports=5  
Snowy Plover 8/6 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 8 Cin-Ty Lee, 8/20 Brazoria(San Luis Pass-Surfside) 9 Mike Austin, 8/21 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 10 Bolivar Bird Count, 8/27 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 30 Cin-Ty Lee  
Wilson's Plover birds=243 reports=4  
Semipalmated Plover birds=325 reports=5  
Piping Plover 8/6 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 80 Cin-Ty Lee, 8/7 Galveston(San Luis Pass) 5 John Arvin, 8/20 Brazoria(San Luis Pass-Surfside) 11 Mike Austin, 8/21 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 70 Bolivar Bird Count, 8/27 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 130 Cin-Ty Lee  
Killdeer birds=50 reports=8  
American Oystercatcher birds=26 reports=2  
Black-necked Stilt birds=164 reports=4  
American Avocet 8/21 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 22 Bolivar Bird Count, 8/27 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 10 Cin-Ty Lee  
Greater Yellowlegs birds=70 reports=4  
Lesser Yellowlegs birds=63 reports=3  
Solitary Sandpiper birds=2 reports=1  
Willet birds=394 reports=4  
Spotted Sandpiper birds=11 reports=4  
Upland Sandpiper birds=59 reports=2  
Whimbrel 8/6 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 1 Cin-Ty Lee, 8/21 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 2 Bolivar Bird Count  
Long-billed Curlew birds=171 reports=4  
**Hudsonian Godwit 8/7 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 1 Cin-Ty Lee**  
Marbled Godwit 8/6 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 50 Cin-Ty Lee, 8/7 Galveston(San Luis Pass) 1 John Arvin, 8/21 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 70 Bolivar Bird Count, 8/27 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 40 Cin-Ty Lee  
Ruddy Turnstone birds=159 reports=4  
Sanderling birds=398 reports=4  
Semipalmated Sandpiper birds=155 reports=6  
Western Sandpiper birds=13,355 reports=6  
Least Sandpiper birds=401 reports=5  
Pectoral Sandpiper birds=4 reports=2  
**Dunlin 8/6 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 1 Cin-Ty Lee, 8/7 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 1 Cin-Ty Lee, 8/27 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 1 Cin-Ty Lee**  
Stilt Sandpiper birds=85 reports=2  
Buff-breasted Sandpiper 8/13 Chambers(FM 1985) 100 John Whittle, 8/27 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 1 Cin-Ty Lee  
Short-billed Dowitcher birds=1,740 reports=3  
Long-billed Dowitcher birds=93 reports=3  
Wilson's Phalarope 8/6 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 4 Cin-Ty Lee, 8/27 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 75 Cin-Ty Lee  
Laughing Gull birds=469 reports=4  
Ring-billed Gull birds=22 reports=4  
Herring Gull birds=6 reports=1  
Caspian Tern birds=19 reports=1  
Royal Tern birds=102 reports=1  
Sandwich Tern birds=35 reports=1  
Forster's Tern birds=43 reports=2  
Least Tern birds=270 reports=4  
Black Tern birds=428 reports=5  
Black Skimmer birds=182 reports=3  
Rock Pigeon birds=28 reports=2  
Eurasian Collared-Dove birds=19 reports=2  
White-winged Dove birds=26 reports=3  
Mourning Dove birds=42 reports=6  
Inca Dove birds=11 reports=2  
Common Ground-Dove 8/27 Waller(Hebert Rd bet Penick & FM 362) 1 Bob & Maggie Honig  
Monk Parakeet birds=3 reports=1  
Yellow-billed Cuckoo birds=4 reports=2  
Common Nighthawk birds=13 reports=4  
Chuck-will's-widow birds=2 reports=1  
Chimney Swift birds=4 reports=2  
Ruby-throated Hummingbird birds=17 reports=6  
Rufous Hummingbird 8/13 Harris(Russ Pittman Park) 1 Johnnie Greene, 8/30 Harris(Russ Pittman park) 1 Don Verser  
**Allen's Hummingbird 8/30 Harris(West Houston) 1 Dr. Stephen Williams**  
hummingbird sp birds=5 reports=2  
Belted Kingfisher birds=2 reports=2  
Red-headed Woodpecker birds=21 reports=3  
Red-bellied Woodpecker birds=18 reports=6  
Downy Woodpecker birds=10 reports=6  
Hairy Woodpecker 8/1 Chambers(my yard Anahuac) 1 Linda Scott  
Pileated Woodpecker birds=1 reports=1  
Olive-sided Flycatcher birds=4 reports=3  
Least Flycatcher 8/13 Harris(Russ Pittman Park) 1 Johnnie Greene, 8/20 Chambers(SPHW) 1 John Arvin  
Great Crested Flycatcher birds=1 reports=1  
**Great Kiskadee 8/21 Harris(Katy Prairie) 2 Jim Hinson**  
**Couch's Kingbird 8/21 Chambers(Smith Point) 1 John Berner**  
Eastern Kingbird birds=12 reports=2  
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher birds=3 reports=2  
Loggerhead Shrike birds=18 reports=6  
White-eyed Vireo birds=4 reports=2  
**Philadelphia Vireo 8/1 Chambers(my yard Anahuac) 1 Linda Scott**  
Red-eyed Vireo birds=3 reports=2  
Blue Jay birds=27 reports=5  
American Crow birds=23 reports=2  
Horned Lark birds=10 reports=1  
Northern Rough-winged Swallow 8/21 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count  
Cliff Swallow birds=2 reports=1  
Barn Swallow birds=137 reports=5  
Carolina Chickadee birds=18 reports=4  
Tufted Titmouse birds=12 reports=2  
Carolina Wren birds=18 reports=5  
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher birds=9 reports=3  
Eastern Bluebird birds=12 reports=1  
American Robin birds=9 reports=2  
Gray Catbird 8/20 Galveston(High Island - Boy Scout Woods) 3 John Arvin  
Northern Mockingbird birds=50 reports=7  
European Starling birds=178 reports=4  
**Nashville Warbler 8/21 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 Jim Hinson**  
Yellow Warbler birds=6 reports=4  
Yellow-throated Warbler birds=1 reports=1  
Pine Warbler birds=4 reports=2  
Black-and-White Warbler birds=2 reports=2  
Prothonotary Warbler birds=1 reports=1  
**Louisiana Waterthrush 8/20 Galveston(High Island - Boy Scout Woods) 1 John Arvin**  
Hooded Warbler birds=1 reports=1  
Canada Warbler 8/8 Harris(Hempstead @ Clay Rd) 1 Kathy Farr, 8/9 Harris(9007 Colleen Rd, Clay Rd @ Hem) 1 Kathy Farr, 8/20 Galveston(High Island - Boy Scout Woods) 1 John Arvin  
Yellow-breasted Chat birds=1 reports=1  
Lark Sparrow 8/20 Chambers(SPHW) 1 John Arvin  
Seaside Sparrow birds=15 reports=1  
Northern Cardinal birds=45 reports=6  
Blue Grosbeak birds=1 reports=1  
Red-winged Blackbird birds=30 reports=1  
Eastern Meadowlark birds=15 reports=3  
Common Grackle birds=383 reports=4  
Great-tailed Grackle birds=130 reports=5  
Brown-headed Cowbird birds=4 reports=2  
Orchard Oriole birds=26 reports=4  
House Sparrow birds=74 reports=2

Outdoor Nature Club  
Ornithology Group

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