



The Spoonbill

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

December 2005
Vol. 54 No. 10

December Meeting

Monday, December 5, 2005 -- 7:00 p.m.
Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet, Houston

6:30 -- Learning Corner with David Bradford
Houston's Wintering Sparrows

Program: *Texas Bird Records*
with Dr. Keith Arnold

Now that we are all capable of obtaining photos of the rare birds we see, it is time for a program on the Texas Bird Records Committee. Dr Keith Arnold will share with us the committee's history and workings with some recent records included as examples. Since Dr Arnold also compiles the Texas Christmas Bird Counts, he will encourage us to submit details for those as well as the TBRC.

Dr Arnold received his Ph.D. from L.S.U. He joined the faculty of the Department of Wildlife Science (now Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences) of Texas A&M University in 1966. He retired as Professor in August 2005, after 39 years, but remains on as a "visiting professor" to teach for this academic year. He also remains as Curator of Birds of the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections. Both his bachelor's and master's degrees are from universities in Michigan. Beverly, his wife of 38 years, will join us for the evening.

--Bernice Hotman

Other Events

Christmas Bird Counts--

Sat., December 17: Houston CBC

Sat., December 31: Buffalo Bayou CBC

--Other CBCs listed on p. 4

Jan. 13-15, 2006: TOS Winter Meeting,
Houston & Katy

Jan. 21: OG Monthly Field Trip
NE Texas with Charles Easley

Jan. 26-29 Quarterly Field Trip
Lower Rio Grande Valley with David Poteet

Inside this issue:

About the OG	2
November Meeting Minutes	2
December Field Trips	3
Midweek Birding	3
Field Trip Reports	3
Christmas Bird Counts	5
Clearing House	5
Membership Form	8

Minutes of the November 7, 2005 Meeting
Bayland Community Center
Attendance: 46

1. Learning Corner: Glenn Olsen's presentation "Tips for Identifying Female Ducks on the Upper Texas Coast" was very informative and included helpful handouts. Of 31 species recorded in Texas, 23 species are abundant, and 8 species rare. Glenn stressed learning the habitat, the behavior, and size of the ducks.

2. Chairman Michael Williams opened the meeting at 7:10 with **bird sightings**. Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Bolivar Flats was a big hit; many Vermilion Flycatchers at Brazos Bend; Golden-crowned Kinglets in Houston area; Brown Creepers; Winter Wrens; Horned Larks: Scarlet Tanager; Great Kiskadee; Whimbrel; Merlin. The Almonys possibly saw a first record bird in Peru, a Red-gartered Coot.

3. Michael welcomed the many **newcomers** to the meeting.

4. Minutes of the last meeting were accepted after a correction to thank Patsy Lawrence for her delicious fun popcorn balls.

5. Library: no news.

6. Newsletter: Al Shultz noted the submission deadline for the *Spoonbill* is at the end of this week. He also spoke of options to reduce the cost of the newsletter. He and Margret Simmons are working on this. Margret said receiving the *Spoonbill* via e-mail was a guarantee of receiving it on time, as many members fail to get their copy until way after the meeting. Anyone wishing to receive the *Spoonbill* by email, please let Al know.

7. Environmental Issues: Mary Dodson spoke on the Endangered Species Act, and how we all need to let our congressmen know that we do not want this act to be wiped out. Congress is also trying to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling.

8. Field Trips: The day trip to J.H. Jones State Park and W.G. Jones State Forest was a big success. Two Red-cockaded Woodpeckers were seen as well as many other birds. Upcoming Katy Prairie trip on Nov. 19 will be a full day starting at 6 a.m. for the owl prowl and 8 a.m. for those wishing a later start. Bill Saulmon reported the midweek trip on the 12th of October to the Arboretum was not very successful, however, there were 10 participants. Skip Almony is leading next midweek trip on Nov. 9 to Cullinan Park in Sugarland. (Skip made two other announcements: 1. We sponsor the Feather Fest in Galveston (Mar.31-Apr. 1, 2006) and need liaisons for the trips; 2. Bobby Ray Harrison will speak on "The Ivory-billed Woodpecker" in Galveston at the Rosenberg Library on Nov. 16; call for reservations.) Adam said the quarterly trip in Jan. to the Valley has been opened to 15 members. The cost will be \$25 dollars for trip and \$10 to the club. David Sarkozi was to have spoken about the Christmas Bird Counts; TOS has all the listings on their website. Glenn Olsen is starting a year long bird survey on Buffalo Bayou and needs help; contact him by e-mail. Kathy Farr asked for volunteers to sign for helping with the TOS conference in Jan. 2006. Bill Godley announced a bird hike this Saturday at 8 a.m. at Brazos Bend State Park, starting at 40 Acre Lake.

9. Treasury: no report.

10. Program: This evening we were treated not only to a delightfully enthusiastic expert birder but also to a very knowledgeable wildlife photographer. Bernice Hotman introduced Clay Taylor of Connecticut who is the Naturalist Market Manager for Swarovski Optik. The program "Digi-What?" covered the history of digiscoping and its practical applications for birders and nature watchers, and discussed the different combinations of digital cameras and spotting scopes that can be used. Along with his presentation, Clay showed slides of wildlife, emphasizing the different settings one could adjust to improve pictures. There were many questions from interested members. Clay led the Bolivar Flats trip on Sun. Nov. 6, showing all participants the actual uses of cameras and scopes. Thank you, Clay, for a most informative evening.

11. Refreshments: cookies by Betsy Winn.

12 Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

--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:	og_spoonbill@earthlink.net

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

December Field Trips

Houston Christmas Bird Count, December 17: The holiday season is upon us once again and it is time for another fun and exciting round of Christmas Bird Counts. The December O.G. field trip will be the annual Houston Christmas Bird Count, which will be held on the 17th of December. The count circle includes Baytown and La Porte on the eastern side of the metro area, and is divided into areas to coordinate people and reporting. Each area leader determines a meeting place and time. Compiler for the count is David Sarkozi, email at david@sarkozi.net or phone at 713-412-4409.

I strongly encourage all of you to participate in the Christmas Bird Count even if it is only watching your feeder in your back yard. This is a chance for all of us to practice citizen science by contributing information to the scientific community that will help in tracking population changes in bird species. The information gathered during the counts will help determine how bird species populations are doing from year to year, and can show if any bird species populations are declining significantly. The more eyes we have out there, the less chance for a bird to go by unnoticed. I further suggest that everybody will try to participate in other Christmas Bird Counts besides Houston's. For more information regarding the Houston Christmas Bird Count other Christmas Bird Counts in our area, please consult Texas Ornithological Society's website at: www.texasbirds.org/index.html.

-Adam Wood, Field Trip Coordinator birdman_570@yahoo.com 713-515-1692

Mid-Week Field Trip: The December 2005 midweek birding trip will be on Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at the Timbergrove (11th Street) Park. The leader for this trip will be Skip Almoney; he will be at the designated meeting point at 8:00 a.m. and the trip will not last beyond 12 noon. We will be birding a small urban park that has 5 woodpecker species listed on its checklist. This trip will help to find base data for the bird life in this green space that is in danger of being developed.* We may also walk to the White Oak Bayou and bird the green space surrounding it. The meeting place will be southeast corner of Timbergrove Park. There is only side-street parking here. The park is located at the corner of 11th Street and Shelterwood Street in the Heights area. To reach this location, get on West T. C. Jester from either I-10 (go north on TC Jester) or from I-610 North Loop (go south on T. C. Jester). Go to the intersection of West T C Jester and 11th Street, and go west from that intersection. After crossing White Oak Bayou, the second street is Shelterwood Drive. Turn north on Shelterwood and park along the street, or on one of the side streets, Woodbrook or Pineshade Lanes. --Skip Almoney

*Houston Chronicle, Nov. 15, 2005, reported that the park will be sold to the city for preservation as a bird sanctuary. --Editor

Report on November Midweek Trip: On a warm and sunny November 9, 2005, the OG Field Trip to Cullinan Park yielded about 30 bird species and a variety of non-bird species. In addition to an expected Red-eared Slider, we saw a Nutria, a garter snake close up, and a beautiful, long grasshopper with large brown wings, yellowish legs and a yellow stripe down its neck and back. Most interesting was a coyote who plunged into the lake after a Little Blue Heron.

The birds provided some surprises also. There was a Red-shouldered Hawk working the southern portion of the pond, giving us some terrific looks from a distance of less than 30 feet. There were numerous ducks on the pond, including Gadwall, Northern Shoveler and Blue-winged Teal. The most exciting ducks were about 18 Wood Ducks swimming out in the open, giving good views the whole time we were there. The Anhingas gave us some good looks also. The wooded areas provided some additional species, including Carolina Chickadees, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, doves, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Northern Cardinals, several unidentified warbler/vireo species and a probable Orchard Oriole. --Skip Almoney

October Field Trip Report: Fourteen participants enjoyed a nice fall day of birding that began at 8:30 at Jesse H. Jones Park. We walked the Cypress Boardwalk Trail and eventually wound our way back to Spring Creek where a Bald Eagle had been reported a week earlier. Unfortunately we were not able to relocate the eagle, but all participants were treated to good looks at Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Pileated Woodpeckers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Eastern Phoebes, Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Belted Kingfisher, and a Brown Thrasher to name a few. We enjoyed a picnic lunch at Jones State Forest around the Mid Lakes Recreation Area. After the picnic lunch we drove over to the Sweetleaf Nature Trail to begin in earnest our search for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. After fanning out near one of the colonies and waiting for about 15-20 minutes we were rewarded when a Red-cockaded Woodpecker graced us with its presence. About 10 minutes later a second one was spotted and all participants got good views. The only miss for the trip was the Brown-headed Nuthatch. Weather was very agreeable and a good time was had by all participants. For the trip we totaled about 40 bird species. --Adam Wood

29th BUFFALO BAYOU CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT: SATURDAY, 31 DECEMBER 2005, in west Houston, centered at the Houston Audubon Society's Edith L. Moore Nature Sanctuary. If you live within the count circle, you can stay at home and participate by being a Feeder/Yard/Neighborhood Watcher. See <http://www.houstonarboretum.org/cbc/txbfintro.htm> for further details. Count Compilers are Luc Bouffard and Michael Williams.

Other Christmas Bird Counts in the Houston Area:

San Bernard NWR

Friday, December 16, 2005

Ron Weeks, empidonax@sbcglobal.net --phone (evenings) 979-849-7771; or Jennifer Wilson, Jennifer_Wilson@fws.gov (daytime)979-849-7771

Brazos Bend State Park

Saturday, December 17, 2005

Fred Land, 281-379-1050

Matagorda County Mad Island Marsh

Monday, December 19, 2005

Brent Ortego, brent.ortego@tpwd.state.tx.us --phone 361-576-0022

Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Sumita Prasad, sumitap@fermatinc.com

Old River

Tuesday, December 27, 2005

Barbara Tilton, jbtilton@imsday.com --phone 936-258-5807

Cypress Creek / Katy Prairie

Sunday, January 1, 2006

Fred Collins, fred_collins@hctx.net --phone 281-304-6471

Lake Houston

Monday, January 2, 2006

Damien Carey, infor@lhanc.com --phone 281-813-7404

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 reports to me via regular mail and e-mail.

September 2005 -- This is the first month that I've tried taking data from eBird.org for the report. I'm not sure what to think. There is a lot of data there and eBird is supposed to have some kind of review process, but there are a lot of hard-to-

believe records there. I went ahead and used the data, but removed records that would have been new for the month since there is no documentation with the data.

Observers: Al & Kathie Shultz, Bob & Maggie Honig, Bolivar Bird Count, Bonnie Deming, Cindy Douglass, Cin-Ty Lee, Derek Muschalek, eBird.org, Janet Rathjen, Johnnie Greene, Kathy Reiser, Maggie Honig, Mike Austin, Ron Weeks, Smith Point Hawk Watch (SPHW), Tom Collins.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck birds=402 reports=11
Fulvous Whistling-Duck birds=20 reports=1
Wood Duck birds=12 reports=1
Mallard 9/29 Harris() 3 ebird.org
Mottled Duck birds=24 reports=2
Blue-winged Teal birds=94 reports=4
Least Grebe 9/8 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR) 1 Bonnie Deming, 9/16 Brazoria(Sea Center Texas) 2 Tom Collins
Pied-billed Grebe birds=7 reports=2
American White Pelican birds=12 reports=3
Brown Pelican birds=1,289 reports=5
Neotropic Cormorant birds=216 reports=9
Double-crested Cormorant birds=9 reports=2
Anhinga birds=32 reports=5
Magnificent Frigatebird 9/17 Galveston() 2 ebird.org, 9/18 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count
Great Blue Heron birds=74 reports=20
Great Egret birds=274 reports=25
Snowy Egret birds=587 reports=21
Little Blue Heron birds=27 reports=14
Tricolored Heron birds=28 reports=12
Reddish Egret birds=41 reports=4
Cattle Egret birds=428 reports=20
Green Heron birds=12 reports=10
Black-crowned Night-Heron birds=3 reports=2
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron birds=28 reports=10
White Ibis birds=125 reports=15
White-faced Ibis birds=2 reports=1
Roseate Spoonbill birds=87 reports=9
Wood Stork birds=2,800 reports=1
Black Vulture birds=167 reports=21
Turkey Vulture birds=61 reports=26
Osprey 9/6 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 3 SPHW, 9/8 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 9/11 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 9/13 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 9/14 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 2 SPHW, 9/19 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/27 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/29 Harris() 2 ebird.org
Swallow-tailed Kite birds=4 reports=2
White-tailed Kite birds=3 reports=2
Mississippi Kite 9/1 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/4 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 1 Al & Kathie Shultz, 9/6 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 113 SPHW, 9/7 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 65 SPHW, 9/8 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 88 SPHW, 9/9 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 55 SPHW, 9/10 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 61 SPHW, 9/11 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 357 SPHW, 9/13 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 231 SPHW, 9/14 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 180 SPHW, 9/24 Harris() 2 ebird.org, 9/27 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 9/27 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 1 Al Shultz
Bald Eagle 9/19 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/24 Harris() 1 ebird.org
Northern Harrier birds=6 reports=5
Sharp-shinned Hawk birds=5 reports=4
Cooper's Hawk birds=37 reports=15
Harris's Hawk 9/29 Brazoria() 1 ebird.org
Red-shouldered Hawk birds=28 reports=18
Broad-winged Hawk birds=3,404 reports=22
Swainson's Hawk birds=10 reports=7
Red-tailed Hawk 9/11 Harris() 3 ebird.org, 9/16 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/26 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/29 Brazoria() 1 ebird.org, 9/29 Harris() 4 ebird.org
Crested Caracara birds=2 reports=2
American Kestrel birds=7 reports=6
Merlin birds=4 reports=4
Peregrine Falcon 9/7 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 9/8 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 1 SPHW, 9/27 Chambers(Candy Abshier WMA) 3 SPHW, 9/30 Harris() 1 ebird.org
Clapper Rail birds=22 reports=5
Purple Gallinule birds=7 reports=2
Common Moorhen birds=110 reports=3
American Coot birds=21 reports=4
Black-bellied Plover birds=162 reports=2
Snowy Plover 9/17 Galveston() 20 ebird.org, 9/18 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 10 Bolivar Bird Count
Wilson's Plover birds=3 reports=2
Semipalmated Plover birds=63 reports=2
Piping Plover birds=153 reports=2
Killdeer birds=103 reports=18
American Oystercatcher birds=54 reports=2
Black-necked Stilt birds=83 reports=8
American Avocet birds=390 reports=2
Greater Yellowlegs birds=12 reports=5
Solitary Sandpiper birds=18 reports=3
Willet birds=182 reports=4
Spotted Sandpiper birds=31 reports=8
Long-billed Curlew birds=60 reports=2
Marbled Godwit birds=107 reports=3
Ruddy Turnstone birds=48 reports=2
Red Knot 9/17 Galveston() 6 ebird.org, 9/18 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 3 Bolivar Bird Count
Sanderling birds=468 reports=2
Semipalmated Sandpiper birds=48 reports=4
Western Sandpiper birds=26 reports=4
Least Sandpiper birds=71 reports=4
Baird's Sandpiper 9/17 Galveston() 6 ebird.org, 9/18 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 3 Bolivar Bird Count
peep sp birds=2,000 reports=1
Dunlin 9/3 Galveston() 1 ebird.org, 9/17 Galveston() 16 ebird.org, 9/18 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 8 Bolivar Bird Count
Short-billed Dowitcher birds=561 reports=2
Long-billed Dowitcher birds=42 reports=2
Laughing Gull birds=1,556 reports=8
Ring-billed Gull birds=30 reports=2
Herring Gull birds=9 reports=2
Caspian Tern birds=18 reports=2
Royal Tern birds=634 reports=4
Sandwich Tern birds=228 reports=2
Forster's Tern birds=84 reports=2
Least Tern birds=34 reports=3
Black Tern birds=54 reports=2
Black Skimmer birds=1,095 reports=2
Rock Pigeon birds=343 reports=10
Eurasian Collared-Dove birds=91 reports=9
Ringed Turtle-Dove birds=3 reports=1
White-winged Dove birds=3,315 reports=38
Mourning Dove birds=633 reports=43
Inca Dove birds=145 reports=25
Common Ground-Dove 9/2 Harris() 8 ebird.org, 9/9 Brazoria() 1 ebird.org
Yellow-billed Cuckoo birds=4 reports=4
Eastern Screech-Owl birds=1 reports=1
Great Horned Owl birds=4 reports=3
Barred Owl birds=3 reports=3
Common Nighthawk birds=4 reports=3
Chuck-will's-widow birds=2 reports=1
Chimney Swift birds=310 reports=36
Ruby-throated Hummingbird birds=666 reports=44
Rufous Hummingbird 9/1 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/3 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/4 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/5 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/10 Harris(Russ Pittman Park) 1 Johnnie Greene, 9/10 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/11 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/12 Harris() 2 ebird.org, 9/15 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/16 Brazoria() 1 ebird.org, 9/19 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/23 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/28 Brazoria() 1 ebird.org, 9/30 Harris() 1 ebird.org
hummingbird sp birds=2 reports=1
Belted Kingfisher birds=20 reports=11
Red-headed Woodpecker birds=42 reports=10
Red-bellied Woodpecker birds=74 reports=29
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 9/28 Brazoria() 1 ebird.org
Downy Woodpecker birds=86 reports=36
Pileated Woodpecker birds=19 reports=11
Olive-sided Flycatcher birds=9 reports=4
Eastern Wood-Pewee birds=31 reports=13
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher birds=8 reports=6
Acadian Flycatcher birds=16 reports=7
Willow Flycatcher birds=2 reports=2
Least Flycatcher birds=31 reports=10
Empidonax sp. birds=7 reports=4
Black Phoebe 9/12 Harris(600 N. Dairy Ashford, Houston) 1 Al Shultz

Great Crested Flycatcher birds=23 reports=11
 Eastern Kingbird birds=206 reports=8
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher birds=32 reports=6
 Loggerhead Shrike birds=81 reports=33
 White-eyed Vireo birds=40 reports=10
Bell's Vireo 9/5 Brazoria(Quintana Island) 2 Ron Weeks
 Yellow-throated Vireo birds=1 reports=1
Warbling Vireo 9/10 Galveston(High Island) 1 Cin-Ty Lee
 Philadelphia Vireo birds=1 reports=1
 Red-eyed Vireo birds=14 reports=7
 Blue Jay birds=349 reports=41
 American Crow birds=110 reports=22
 Horned Lark birds=27 reports=2
 Purple Martin 9/1 Harris() 1 ebird.org
 Tree Swallow birds=16 reports=4
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow birds=35 reports=8
 Bank Swallow birds=3 reports=2
 Cliff Swallow birds=95 reports=9
 Barn Swallow birds=306 reports=15
 swallow sp birds=12 reports=2
 Carolina Chickadee birds=125 reports=22
 Tufted Titmouse birds=42 reports=9
 Brown-headed Nuthatch 9/17 Harris() 1 ebird.org
 Carolina Wren birds=74 reports=18
 Marsh Wren birds=2 reports=2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 9/12 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/30 Harris() 1 ebird.org
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher birds=180 reports=30
 Eastern Bluebird birds=68 reports=5
 American Robin birds=39 reports=3

Gray Catbird 9/17 Galveston() 2 ebird.org, 9/18 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count, 9/30 Harris() 1 ebird.org
 Northern Mockingbird birds=225 reports=41
 Brown Thrasher 9/9 Jefferson(Sabine Woods) 1 Mike Austin
 European Starling birds=228 reports=21
 Blue-winged Warbler birds=5 reports=3
Orange-crowned Warbler 9/17 Galveston() 4 ebird.org, 9/18 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 2 Bolivar Bird Count
Nashville Warbler 9/5 Brazoria(Quintana Island) 1 Ron Weeks, 9/17 Galveston() 2 ebird.org, 9/18 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 1 Bolivar Bird Count, 9/29 Harris() 1 ebird.org
 Northern Parula birds=7 reports=4
 Yellow Warbler birds=38 reports=13
Magnolia Warbler 9/9 Galveston(Smith Oaks(High Island)) 1 Derek Muschalek
 Black-throated Green Warbler 9/3 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/9 Jefferson(Sabine Woods) 1 Mike Austin, 9/10 Galveston(High Island) 1 Cin-Ty Lee
 Pine Warbler birds=16 reports=7
 Prairie Warbler 9/9 Jefferson(Sabine Woods) 1 Mike Austin, 9/9 Jefferson(Willows @ Sea Rim SP) 1 Mike Austin
 Black-and-white Warbler birds=24 reports=10
 American Redstart birds=5 reports=4
 Ovenbird 9/9 Galveston(Smith Oaks(High Island)) 2 Derek Muschalek, 9/10 Galveston(High Island) 1 Cin-Ty Lee

Northern Waterthrush birds=3 reports=3
 Louisiana Waterthrush 9/1 Harris() 1 ebird.org
 Mourning Warbler birds=3 reports=3
 Common Yellowthroat birds=4 reports=3
 Hooded Warbler birds=10 reports=5
 Wilson's Warbler 9/3 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 9/5 Brazoria(Quintana Island) 1 Ron Weeks, 9/9 Jefferson(Sabine Woods) 1 Mike Austin, 9/18 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 1 Al Shultz, 9/28 Brazoria() 5 ebird.org
 Canada Warbler birds=9 reports=5
 Yellow-breasted Chat birds=7 reports=5
 Summer Tanager birds=14 reports=8
 Lark Sparrow 9/17 Galveston() 4 ebird.org, 9/18 Galveston(Bolivar Peninsula) 2 Bolivar Bird Count
 Seaside Sparrow birds=6 reports=2
 sparrow sp birds=1 reports=1
 Northern Cardinal birds=409 reports=42
 Blue Grosbeak birds=1 reports=1
 Painted Bunting birds=2 reports=2
 Dickcissel birds=31 reports=13
 Red-winged Blackbird birds=116 reports=10
 Eastern Meadowlark birds=19 reports=3
 Common Grackle birds=2,502 reports=33
 Boat-tailed Grackle birds=39 reports=2
 Great-tailed Grackle birds=485 reports=9
 Bronzed Cowbird 9/2 Harris() 5 ebird.org
 Brown-headed Cowbird birds=40 reports=6
 Orchard Oriole birds=26 reports=5
 Baltimore Oriole birds=97 reports=16
 House Finch birds=263 reports=30
 House Sparrow birds=1,236 reports=36

October 2005 -- Like the September report I used data from eBird.org. I've definitely developed a love/hate relationship with it. It sure is a lot of data, but I can't see who submitted it and what sites it came from. I'm not sure I'm going to continue using data from eBird.org, although I would be more than happy to take your downloaded data from eBird.org that contains your name and the locations in a spreadsheet. Contact me if you're interested in doing that and we'll set up a test.

Observers: Al Shultz, Bob & Maggie Honig, Brad Lirette, ebird.org, Iris Poteet, Jim Hinson, Johnnie Greene, Kathy Reiser, Mike Austin, Mike Potts.

Black-bellied Whistling-duck birds=1,654 reports=16
 Fulvous Whistling-Duck birds=4 reports=1
 Greater White-fronted Goose birds=149 reports=8
 Snow Goose birds=78 reports=1
 Wood Duck birds=62 reports=2
 Gadwall birds=37 reports=1
 American Wigeon birds=2 reports=1
 Mallard 10/8 Harris() 22 ebird.org
 Mottled Duck birds=11 reports=4
 Blue-winged Teal birds=55 reports=6
 Northern Shoveler birds=4 reports=2
 Northern Pintail birds=1 reports=1
 Green-winged Teal birds=3 reports=2
 Ring-necked Duck 10/27 Harris() 2 ebird.org, 10/31 Harris() 165 ebird.org
Least Grebe 10/22 Fort Bend() 1 ebird.org
 Pied-billed Grebe birds=75 reports=12
 American White Pelican birds=310 reports=3

Brown Pelican birds=430 reports=6
 Neotropic Cormorant birds=164 reports=5
 Double-crested Cormorant birds=48 reports=15
 Anhinga birds=14 reports=4
 American Bittern birds=4 reports=4
 Great Blue Heron birds=105 reports=27
 Great Egret birds=184 reports=33
 Snowy Egret birds=88 reports=23
 Little Blue Heron birds=44 reports=17
 Tricolored Heron birds=23 reports=8
 Reddish Egret birds=40 reports=7
 Cattle Egret birds=369 reports=13
 Green Heron 10/9 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/15 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/22 Fort Bend() 1 ebird.org
 Black-crowned Night-Heron birds=16 reports=7
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron birds=4 reports=2
 White Ibis birds=472 reports=24
 White-faced Ibis birds=95 reports=3

Roseate Spoonbill birds=47 reports=5
 Black Vulture birds=158 reports=26
 Turkey Vulture birds=160 reports=33
 Osprey birds=6 reports=6
 White-tailed Kite birds=11 reports=5
 Bald Eagle 10/2 Waller(Sharp&Hebert Roads) 1 Kathie & Al Shultz, 10/8 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/9 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/29 Harris() 1 ebird.org
 Northern Harrier birds=25 reports=9
 Sharp-shinned Hawk birds=7 reports=6
 Cooper's Hawk birds=16 reports=15
 Red-shouldered Hawk birds=47 reports=23
 Broad-winged Hawk birds=48 reports=7
 Swainson's Hawk birds=4 reports=3
 Red-tailed Hawk birds=31 reports=19
 Crested Caracara birds=9 reports=4
 American Kestrel birds=20 reports=14
 Merlin birds=5 reports=5
Peregrine Falcon 10/15 Galveston() 2 ebird.org
 Clapper Rail birds=26 reports=6

Common Moorhen birds=663 reports=11
American Coot birds=220 reports=17
Black-bellied Plover birds=335 reports=8
Snowy Plover 10/15 Galveston() 20 ebird.org, 10/21 Galveston(San Luis Pass) 1 Mike Austin, **10/30 Galveston() 3 ebird.org, 10/31 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 1 Mike Austin**
Semipalmated Plover birds=442 reports=5
Piping Plover birds=409 reports=4
Killdeer birds=191 reports=31
American Oystercatcher birds=21 reports=3
Black-necked Stilt birds=88 reports=5
American Avocet birds=1,884 reports=3
Greater Yellowlegs birds=47 reports=9
Lesser Yellowlegs birds=70 reports=6
Willet birds=175 reports=7
Spotted Sandpiper birds=8 reports=5
Whimbrel 10/15 Galveston() 1 ebird.org
Long-billed Curlew birds=82 reports=4
Marbled Godwit birds=221 reports=4
Ruddy Turnstone birds=59 reports=3
Red Knot birds=81 reports=3
Sanderling birds=406 reports=4
Semipalmated Sandpiper birds=6 reports=2
Western Sandpiper birds=4,027 reports=3
Least Sandpiper birds=430 reports=6
peep sp birds=6 reports=1
Dunlin birds=36 reports=2
Short-billed Dowitcher birds=497 reports=5
Long-billed Dowitcher birds=17 reports=2
Wilson's Snipe 10/15 Galveston() 1 ebird.org, 10/28 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 2 Mike Potts
Laughing Gull birds=7,669 reports=8
Franklin's Gull 10/21 Galveston(San Luis Pass) 5 Mike Austin, 10/31 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 1 Mike Austin
Ring-billed Gull birds=24 reports=2
Herring Gull birds=46 reports=5
Caspian Tern birds=136 reports=3
Royal Tern birds=846 reports=6
Sandwich Tern birds=312 reports=3
Common Tern birds=22 reports=1
Forster's Tern birds=1,047 reports=6
Black Skimmer birds=2,168 reports=6
Rock Pigeon birds=460 reports=12
Eurasian Collared-Dove birds=44 reports=2
White-winged Dove birds=2,334 reports=37
Mourning Dove birds=377 reports=48
Inca Dove birds=36 reports=17
Greater Roadrunner 10/31 Harris() 1 ebird.org
Groove-billed Ani 10/30 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 1 Kathy Reiser
Barn Owl birds=2 reports=1
Great Horned Owl birds=5 reports=4
Barred Owl birds=4 reports=3
Common Nighthawk 10/3 Harris() 2 ebird.org, 10/15 Galveston() 1 ebird.org
Chuck-will's-widow 10/24 Galveston(Dos Vacas Muertas) 2 Mike Austin
Chimney Swift 10/1 Harris() 502 ebird.org
Ruby-throated Hummingbird birds=143 reports=27
Rufous Hummingbird 10/1 Brazoria() 1 ebird.org, 10/1 Harris() 3 ebird.org, 10/8 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/13 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/21 Harris() 1 ebird.org
Belted Kingfisher birds=31 reports=19
Red-headed Woodpecker birds=22 reports=6
Red-bellied Woodpecker birds=178 reports=44
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker birds=10 reports=5
Red-naped Sapsucker 10/5 Harris(Bear Creek Park) 1 Jim Hinson
Ladder-backed Woodpecker 10/2 Harris(Warren Ranch Lake Dam,Katy Pra) 1 Iris Poteet
Downy Woodpecker birds=87 reports=36
Northern Flicker birds=8 reports=8
Pileated Woodpecker birds=35 reports=16
Eastern Wood-Pewee birds=3 reports=3
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher 10/1 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/8 Fort Bend() 1 ebird.org
Acadian Flycatcher 10/8 Fort Bend() 1 ebird.org
Black Phoebe 10/6 Harris(600 N Dairy Ashford, Houston) 1 Al Shultz
Eastern Phoebe birds=98 reports=23
Vermilion Flycatcher 10/8 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/13 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/22 Fort Bend() 2 ebird.org, 10/22 Fort Bend() 1 ebird.org, 10/23 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 1 Kathy Reiser, 10/28 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 1 Mike Potts, 10/29 Harris(Arthur Storey Park) 2 Johnnie Greene
Great Crested Flycatcher birds=2 reports=1
Western Kingbird birds=1 reports=1
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher birds=72 reports=4
Loggerhead Shrike birds=62 reports=20
White-eyed Vireo birds=8 reports=6
Blue-headed Vireo birds=1 reports=1
Blue Jay birds=349 reports=44
American Crow birds=184 reports=30
Horned Lark birds=29 reports=3
Tree Swallow birds=32 reports=5
Northern Rough-winged Swallow birds=22 reports=7
Bank Swallow birds=1 reports=1
Cliff Swallow 10/15 Galveston() 1 ebird.org
Cave Swallow 10/21 Harris() 3 ebird.org
Barn Swallow birds=36 reports=3
swallow sp birds=6 reports=1
Carolina Chickadee birds=219 reports=39
Tufted Titmouse birds=63 reports=19
Red-breasted Nuthatch 10/26 Harris() 1 ebird.org
Carolina Wren birds=139 reports=28
House Wren birds=14 reports=8
Sedge Wren 10/15 Galveston() 2 ebird.org
Marsh Wren birds=2 reports=1
Golden-crowned Kinglet 10/23 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 3 Al Shultz, 10/24 Galveston(Dos Vacas Muertas) 1 Mike Austin, 10/30 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 1 Kathy Reiser, 10/30 Harris() 1 ebird.org
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 10/1 Hardin(Houston near Bissonnet & Edloe) 1 Bob & Maggie Honig, 10/1 Harris(Jones State Park) 1 Kathy Reiser, 10/28 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 4 Mike Potts, 10/29 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR; Quintana) 1 Kathy Reiser, 10/30 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 2 Kathy Reiser
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher birds=51 reports=18
Eastern Bluebird birds=74 reports=6
Hermit Thrush 10/16 Brazoria() 1 ebird.org
American Robin birds=62 reports=7
Gray Catbird birds=22 reports=14
Northern Mockingbird birds=267 reports=46
Brown Thrasher birds=15 reports=10
European Starling birds=417 reports=28
American Pipit 10/22 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/31 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 20 Mike Austin
Orange-crowned Warbler birds=18 reports=14
Nashville Warbler birds=8 reports=5
Northern Parula 10/8 Harris() 1 ebird.org, 10/18 Harris() 1 ebird.org
Yellow-rumped Warbler 10/21 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 4 Kathie Shultz, 10/23 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 3 Kathy Reiser, 10/23 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 2 Al Shultz, 10/24 Galveston(Dos Vacas Muertas) 1 Mike Austin, 10/28 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 3 Mike Potts, 10/29 Harris(Arthur Storey Park) 11 Johnnie Greene, 10/30 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 1 Kathy Reiser
Yellow-throated Warbler 10/8 Harris() 1 ebird.org
Pine Warbler birds=37 reports=6
Black-and-white Warbler birds=4 reports=4
American Redstart 10/9 Harris(E.L. Moore N.S.) 1 Kathy Reiser
Common Yellowthroat birds=32 reports=13
Wilson's Warbler birds=4 reports=4
Canada Warbler 10/1 Harris(Houston Zoo) 2 Brad Lirette
Summer Tanager birds=1 reports=1
Savannah Sparrow 10/29 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR; Quintana) 1 Kathy Reiser, 10/31 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 3 Mike Austin
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow 10/31 Galveston(Bolivar Flats) 3 Mike Austin
Seaside Sparrow birds=15 reports=4
Song Sparrow 10/21 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 1 Kathie Shultz, 10/29 Brazoria(Brazoria NWR; Quintana) 1 Kathy Reiser
Lincoln's Sparrow 10/23 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 1 Al Shultz
Swamp Sparrow 10/23 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 1 Al Shultz, 10/28 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 6 Mike Potts, 10/30 Fort Bend(Brazos Bend SP) 2 Kathy Reiser
White-throated Sparrow 10/23 Harris(west Barker Reservoir) 2 Al Shultz
Northern Cardinal birds=428 reports=48
Rose-breasted Grosbeak birds=1 reports=1
Blue Grosbeak 10/5 Harris() 1 ebird.org
Indigo Bunting birds=87 reports=18
Dickcissel birds=17 reports=10
Red-winged Blackbird birds=1,077 reports=39
Eastern Meadowlark birds=92 reports=8
Common Grackle birds=1,466 reports=35
Boat-tailed Grackle birds=46 reports=10
Great-tailed Grackle birds=676 reports=21
Brown-headed Cowbird birds=425 reports=13
Baltimore Oriole birds=2 reports=2
House Finch birds=240 reports=31
House Sparrow birds=718 reports=34

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Ornithology Group
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Houston TX 77277-0894

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THE TOS WANTS YOU!

The O.G. and the Katy Prairie Conservancy are hosting the next meeting of the Texas Ornithological Society, Jan. 13-16, 2006. *To volunteer or register*, contact Kathy Farr, phone 713-939-9375, email kafarr@hal-pc.org

Lower Rio Grande Valley Trip,
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More spaces available --
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