

# The Spoonbill

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

February 2006  
Vol. 55 No. 2

## February Meeting

**Monday, February 6, 2006 -- 7:00 p.m.**

Bayland Community Center  
6400 Bissonnet, Houston

**6:30 -- Learning Corner** with *David Bradford*:  
**Raptor ID problems** (Sharp-shinned Hawk,  
Cooper's Hawk, Merlin and Kestrel)

Bring field guides and your favorite ID tips  
and experiences with these birds for a group  
learning experience.

**Program** with *Jesse Fagan*:  
**Breeding Warblers of East Texas**

Fourteen wood warblers nest in the woods of east Texas. Jesse Fagan will take us on a virtual field trip to discover these gems in their not-too-distant nesting territories. Jesse will help us learn to recognize appropriate habitat as well as song and field marks as invaluable tools to enjoying these breeding residents of the Piney Woods.

While a mathematics professor at SFA in Nacogdoches, Jesse led field trips for TOS, not only for these warblers but also for sparrows in central Texas and woodpeckers and Henslow's Sparrows in east Texas. Now pursuing a degree in Spanish in South Carolina, Jesse also is working on a birding project in El Salvador.

## Other Events

**February 8:** midweek trip  
**Russ Pittman Park**

**February 18:** monthly OG field trip  
**Anahuac NWR** with David Sarkozi

**March 6:** monthly OG meeting  
**Denver Holt on Owls**

**March 18:** monthly OG field trip  
**Bear Creek**, Addicks Reservoir, and  
Barker Reservoir with **Adam Wood**

**March 30 - April 2: FeatherFest**  
<http://www.galvestonfeatherfest.com/>

**April 22-23:** Quarterly Field Trip  
**San Antonio** with **Mike Creese**

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**Have you renewed your ONC-OG  
membership for 2006?**

**New dues rates are in effect – see p. 8.**

**Minutes of the January 9, 2005 Meeting**  
Bayland Community Center  
Attendance: 76

1. **Learning Corner:** David Bradford continued his presentation on sparrows of West Harris County with emphasis on the four most common: Savannah, Song, Vesper, and Lincoln's, followed by details on other species to be looked for in the winter.
2. **Chairman Michael Williams** opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. with a thank-you to Jean and Bill Harwell for their remembrance of Louise Hoffman, one of the oldest OG members.
3. Kathy Farr spoke about the **TOS conference** this week and urged OG members to sign up for field trips and the banquets. Shirley asked for OG members to help with the membership table during the conference.
4. **Bird sightings:** Vermilion Flycatchers, White-tailed Hawk, Great Horned Owl on the Katy Prairie; Winter Wren, Least Grebe, many Vermilion flycatchers, Fulvous Whistling Ducks at Brazos Bend S.P.; Margret Simmons saw a Woodcock on her patio; many Bronzed Cowbirds seen on Bellaire; Kathy Farr has nesting Great Horned Owls in her yard and 2 Screech Owls. Short-eared Owls and Cooper's Hawks seen. A Red-tailed Hawk was observed by many as it ate a squirrel, and another Red-tail was seen eating a pigeon. There are many Ospreys on the bayou. The eagles' nest blew down on Lake Charlotte but is being rebuilt by a pair, and a second pair was also spotted in the area.
5. **Minutes** were approved for December meeting.
6. **Membership:** Membership fees are due, and there is now a discount for those getting *The Spoonbill* via e-mail.
7. **Library:** Andy Scott asked members to let him know if there are any books they want him to purchase for the OG Library.
8. **Newsletter:** Information due ASAP. Al would like summaries of Christmas Bird Counts to include in *The Spoonbill*.
9. **Treasury:** Jim Winn had hand-outs of the current budget and explained the increase in money due to TOS Conference. This will decrease as money is used for conference expenses and distributed to TOS and KPC.
10. **Environmental Issues:** Michael urged us all to try to meet with our congressmen and let them know how we feel about the condition of the State Parks. Mary said there is to be a citizens' meeting with Jerry Hopkins, from State Parks and Wildlife, informing people about the situation. Developers on Padre Island are trying to acquire land owned by the Nature Conservancy, to build vacation homes. The Westside Airport is still a major concern.
11. **Field Trips:** The field trip to Timbergrove was a wash-out. Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center trip will be Jan. 11th. The January Field trip to NE Texas has been canceled; instead, participants can help in Ted Eubanks's shorebird survey (check OG website for details). The Rio Grande Valley trip will have two leaders, so all those who signed up may go.
12. **Program:** Bernice Hotman introduced our guest speaker, Martin Hagne, who is the Executive Director of the Valley Nature Center in Weslaco, Texas. His enjoyable talk on the "speciality birds" of the Rio Grande Valley was most informative. Four counties make up the Valley's 43,000 square mile region, which has 510 species of birds. Birding has become a major industry in the Valley and local Chambers are taking note. Many birding centers are now being built. Martin proceeded to show slides of 38 species, explaining their behavior and where they can be seen.
13. **Meeting adjourned** at 8:45 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
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OG website:	<a href="http://www.ornithologygroup.org/">http://www.ornithologygroup.org/</a>
ONC website:	<a href="http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/">http://www.outdoornatureclub.org/</a>

## February Field Trip

**Saturday, February 18** – Our very own David Sarkozi will lead this month's trip to Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge, Smith Point, and Lake Anahuac. We will be in search of whatever waterfowl may be around, especially Common Goldeneye and Greater Scaup. Also we will be looking out for other wintering specialties such as Brown Creepers, Ash-throated Flycatchers, American Woodcocks and Golden-crowned Kinglets, since this appears to be a good year for them. So come out and join us for a fun day of birding on what should be a warmer-than-usual February day (but still not too hot) if current trends hold.

We will meet at the sign-in station at Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge at 8:00 a.m. To get to Anahuac NWR, take I-10 East to Exit 812 (TX 61 or Anahuac/Hankamer exit). Head south on 61 for nearly four miles to the stop sign. Continuing straight, the road becomes Hwy. 562; continue for approximately 8.5 miles to the fork in the road. At the fork, turn left on FM 1985 and continue for an additional 4 miles to the main entrance of the refuge. Turn right on the easement road for another 3 miles. Signs will be posted.

Make sure to bring your binos, scopes if you have them, cameras (could be a chance to practice your digiscoping skills), water, hat, sunscreen, snacks if you would like, and a lunch if you are planning on birding for most of the day. If you have any questions, please let me know and consult the message board on the field trip section of the OG website for trip updates and carpool information.

--Adam Wood, OG Field Trip Coordinator

713-515-1692

[Birdman\\_570@yahoo.com](mailto:Birdman_570@yahoo.com)

## Midweek Birding Trip with Skip Almoney

The February 2006 midweek birding trip will be on February, 8, 2006 at Russ Pittman Park, a peaceful 4-acre park nestled just inside the 610 Loop within the City of Bellaire. The Nature Discovery Center is located within the historic Henshaw House, a prominent feature at the north end of the park. The leader for this trip will be Skip Almoney; he will be at the designated meeting point at 8:30 a.m. and the trip will not last beyond 12

noon. We will bird the feeders around the Nature Discovery Center and along the trails throughout the grounds. If you have never birded this urban site, you will find it most remarkable. Wintertime has produced any number of hummingbirds in this small park, including a Calliope Hummingbird several years ago. Russ Pitman Park is located on Avenue A in Bellaire. To reach the park, turn south on Avenue A off of Bellaire Boulevard (inside West Loop 610). After you pass Oleander Street, there is an off-the-street parking area on the left at the north end of the Park. You can also turn right off of the West Loop N feeder road at Oleander and then right on Avenue A to the parking area.

### OG Mid-Week Birding Trips

February 2006	Russ Pittman Park
March 2006	Addicks Reservoir
April 2006	Herman Brown Park
May 2006	Hermann Park

## Report – Midweek Trip to Sims Bayou, Jan. 11

The OG Field Trip to The Houston Audubon's Sims Bayou Nature Center was held on January 11, 2006. The group gathered together on a crisp and very clear morning at 8:00 a.m. outside the fence at the nature center. Our first tour around the property yielded only a few common species, like Blue Jay, Northern Mockingbird and several Mourning Doves. As the temperature began to rise, so did the bird species, and on our second trip we saw 17 more species. As has been the case this winter, the number of birds is significantly reduced from previous years.

Among the birds seen were about a dozen American Goldfinches, an Eastern Phoebe and several Red-bellied Woodpeckers in the wooded banks of the oxbow channel. Along this oxbow channel which is part of Sim's Bayou we also saw two Double-crested Cormorants, a Great Blue Heron, and two Great Egrets which perched out in the open for some great looks. The most unusual and gratifying bird was a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker in the tree beside the barn. Everyone got good looks at it. Finally, on the way home while entering the I-45 freeway, I spotted a mature Bald Eagle soaring over the Bayou.

All of the folks who were visiting Sims Bayou Nature Center for the first time remarked how wonderful this one-acre tract is, both for birding and enjoying nature. There are trails through the woods, an herb and butterfly garden, two ponds, plenty of feeders and observation blinds and platforms. The property is about 15 minutes from downtown off of I-45 South. The Houston Audubon Society is converting the buildings into their educational center. Currently, the hours of operation are varied, so call HAS to check if the gate will be open before you go out there.

--Skip Almoney

## Christmas Bird Counts

### Guadalupe River Delta – McFaddin Family Ranches

The second running of this CBC on December 14, 2005 produced reports of 223 species from 57 birders with the Best Bird being 2 swifts observed for several minutes flying over the Guadalupe River by Bea Harrison and Doc McAllister.

Abnormal weather influenced results of most of the early CBCs this year. Our day started with heavy fog on the Coast with light rain on and off all morning. A major cold front blasted through in mid afternoon essentially shutting down birding in open areas. While challenging, it was fun birding under a small umbrella and the birds were very active in the light rain.

Interesting reports were one White-winged Scoter, 45 Least Grebe, 3 Whooping Crane, 17 American Bittern, 2 Yellow Rail, 10 Green Kingfisher, 1 Red-naped Sapsucker, 3 Least Flycatcher, 45 Vermillion Flycatcher, 13 Great Kiskadee, 2 E. Kingbird, 1 Yellow-throated Vireo, 1 Red-eyed Vireo, 194 Rough-winged Swallow, 3 Bank Swallow, 54 Barn Swallow, 17 warbler species that included Parula, Black-throated Green, Prothonotary, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush (banded), Ovenbird, and Chat, plus 2 grosbeaks.

We would like to thank our sponsors and owners/managers providing access to their lands: Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Jess Womack Family Ranch, Rio Vista Bluff Ranch, La Querencia Ranch, Innovene Corp., Dow Chemicals, Jim Colville, Beverly Fletcher Ranch, Jim Mills and Larry Seydler.

As always, results are tentative until approved by the Texas CBC editor.

-- Brent Ortego and Mark Elwonger, Compilers

### San Bernard NWR:

On December 16, the 21st annual San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge Christmas Bird Count found an unofficial total of 194 species. The best included Wilson's Plover, three Red Knots, five Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, three Brown-crested Flycatchers, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Yellow-breasted Chat, two Indigo Buntings, Henslow's Sparrow and House Finch. In addition to the Lesser Black-backed Gulls and the Brown-crested Flycatchers, new count highs were established for Black Vulture (436), Wood Duck (103), Mallard (72), Sanderling (324), Blue-headed Vireo (32), Carolina Chickadee (590), House Wren (105), Winter Wren (14), Golden-crowned Kinglet (33) and Gray Catbird (125).

On the other side of the ledger we missed Cattle Egret for the first time ever and Brewer's Blackbird for

just the second time. We also missed Cinnamon Teal, Canvasback and American Oystercatcher – birds that we used to get regularly and in recent years have had a hard time finding. Low counts for some species were likely due to a lack of fresh water. In general, neotropical species were down, with no orioles, grosbeaks or tanagers; and few warbler species were found.

The compiler would like to thank the staff of San Bernard NWR and Nannie M. Stringfellow WMA for providing their time and equipment (airboat, ATV, 4WD vehicle, canoe). Ron Bisbee made the traditional seafood gumbo dinner with funds provided by ConocoPhillips.

--Ron Weeks, Compiler

### Armand Bayou:

Armand Bayou's count on Saturday, December 17) did rather well considering the weather, about 125 species. We did have some rather interesting sightings and are hopeful of their acceptance into our count history. While some species have been seen in the past and others are newly documented, the following received oohs and ahhs and requests of "where exactly did you see that?": Virginia Rails, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows, a MacGillivray's Warbler, an oriole, swifts of uncertain specificity and White-winged Scoters. Of course the count would not be complete without its stars--those dedicated volunteers who waded out into rain and cold to find these birds and hundreds of others. As one birder told me, "I got up early to count birds and that's what I'm going to do!" We couldn't have pulled it off without you. So thank you to all the volunteers who shivered, squinted, squelched or sneezed their way through another count. We can't wait for next year!

--Christine Battan, co-compiler

### Freeport:

The 49th Freeport Christmas Bird Count was held Sunday, December 18th. Eighty-eight participants tallied 211 species, and 2 additional species were logged on count week. Although no new birds for the count were added, participants found three species which had only been found once previously: Whip-poor-will, Prothonotary Warbler, and Warbling Vireo. Third time visitors were Great Crested Flycatcher and Brown-headed Nuthatch. Other notable finds were Horned Grebe, Swainson's Hawk, Anna's Hummingbird, Wood Thrush, Nashville Warbler and a Couch's/Tropical-type Kingbird.

Although bird numbers were generally low due to the drought, record numbers of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks, Hooded Mergansers, and three hummingbird

species (Buff-bellied, Ruby-throated, and Black-chinned) were observed.

Many thanks to all who participated!

--Mike Austin

### **Mad Island Marsh:**

The 13th running of the Mad Island CBC in southern Matagorda County on 19 December 2005 will likely establish a new record on species total for the Nation; somewhere in the upper 240s. The Best Bird (as determined by votes from Section Leaders) is a tie in votes for Whip-poor-will, Calliope Hummingbird and Shiny Cowbird.

116 field observers and 3 feeder watchers began counting at mid-night and continued until 6 p.m. when a Black Rail was heard for the last species of this record day. Conditions were chilly in the morning with 37 degree lows pushed by north winds of 15 to 20 mph all day. Boat parties had to try to count birds in open bays with major white caps. Conditions were very dry and fruit production of trees and shrubs was low. However, large numbers of skilled and highly motivated birders with access to large amounts of highly productive land ruled the day. Interesting reports were: Fulvous Whistling Duck, lots of waterfowl, 2 species of scoters, 17 Least Grebe, Red-necked Grebe, Least Bittern, Wood Stork, Harris's Hawk, Aplomado Falcon, Yellow Rail, Franklin's Gull, Burrowing Owl, Long-eared Owl, Acadian Flycatcher, 4 Least Flycatcher, Thick-billed Kingbird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Wood Thrush, 17 species of warblers which included Tennessee, N. Parula, Yellow, Magnolia, Yellow-throated, 4 Ovenbird, N. Waterthrush and 11 Yellow-breasted Chat, W. Tanager, and Pyrrhuloxia.

The Mad Island Area is blessed with a forested corridor extending all of the way down the Colorado River to the Gulf that is bordered by an abundance of native prairies, brushlands and wetlands. Sponsorship along with a strong community support pays for our activity fees, meals and t-shirts. Land owners like Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, The Nature Conservancy of Texas, South Texas Nuclear Project, Equistar Chemicals, Smith's Marsh, Von Gotten, Eddie Douglas, Linda Stovall, Mr. Ledwig, Roy Poinsett, Gene Welfel, Bahr Ranch, Jack Miller, Lower Colorado River Authority, Huebner family, Anderson family and others manage the land that supports the wildlife and provides access to the birders. Lastly, the birders, without their skills, enthusiasm and willingness to work hard through some tough birding conditions, the quality of this count would not be possible.

As always, results are tentative until the Texas CBC editor has reviewed and approved the results.

--Brent Ortego and Marilyn Sitz, Compilers

### **Cypress Creek - Katy Prairie:**

On January 1, 2006, 55 observers found 134 species on a very dry Katy Prairie on our 30th Christmas Bird Count. This count was founded by Tony Galluci and has seen many changes in those 30 years. Tony did the first count solo and until the advent of the Katy Prairie Conservancy we were lucky to have 25 observers and delighted with 30. Now 50 plus is the norm and they are privileged to roam more than 20,000 acres of private property.

In spite of this being the 30th annual count we managed only an average total on the species count, and a low number on total birds, certainly influences of continuing dry conditions. Water is becoming downright rare on the prairies. However, we did manage to add 4 new species to the overall species list. Great Kiskadee was finally added to the list. It has been resident in the area for 2 to 3 years but we were not able to find it on count day in the past. Amazingly enough, this species was found in three separate locations (4 birds) plus an additional location and 2 additional birds by an observer who was not a count participant. Cave Swallow was also added after being suspected as wintering for at least the last two years. This species was identified in two separate areas with a total of 213 birds. Ladder-backed Woodpecker, a rare resident in extreme western Waller County, was finally recorded during a count; and an anticipated wintering Nashville Warbler was the fourth species added to our overall list. The latter two birds were on the Warren Ranch, a recent KPC acquisition to which we had complete access this year. Other birds observed after an absence of several years included Cinnamon Teal and Harris's Hawk. Couch's Kingbird was also found again, the 5th consecutive year for this recent winter resident. Ash-throated Flycatchers and Bewick's Wrens were widespread. We recorded 15 species of diurnal raptors, and 54 owls of 5 species.

Waterfowl were near or at all time lows; only 396 Northern Shovelers and only 151 Green-winged Teal. These species are usually recorded by the thousands and on several occasions have been recorded in the tens of thousands. Sparrows were hard to come by, with only 12 species and low numbers, well below the average.

I would like to thank all those who made it out for New Year's daybreak and made this a great 30th anniversary celebration. Our heartfelt thanks also go to the many land owners who gave us access to their beautiful properties. We would not have such an enjoyable and successful count without their hospitality.

--Fred Collins, Compiler

## **GET READY -- HERE THEY COME!**

### **Spring Migration Workshop on the Upper Texas Coast**

The Gulf Coast Bird Observatory will host a Spring Migration Workshop on March 24-26 to help birders better understand and enjoy one of the most amazing phenomena in nature - the twice-annual mass movement of billions of creatures over hundreds or thousands of miles. Dr. Kenneth P. Able, who has spent a career studying bird migration and who is editor of the acclaimed book, *Gatherings of Angels: Migrating Birds and Their Ecology*, will share the results of decades of research into this incredible spectacle. Presentations by Ken, John Arvin, and other migration researchers will take place on the evenings of the 24th and 25th and field trips to some of the premier locations on the Texas coast will occupy Saturday the 25th and the morning of Sunday, the 26th. Registration will be available February 5th. Spaces for the workshop are limited. To get your name on the pre-registration "early bird list", please call the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory at (979) 480-0999 or e-mail [jarvin@gcbo.org](mailto:jarvin@gcbo.org).

### **Bird Flu: What to Do?**

Recent outbreaks of the H5N1 subtype of the avian influenza type A virus, or "avian flu," are causing worldwide concern. All subtypes of type A influenza viruses occur naturally in wild birds. However, H5N1 is an especially virulent and contagious strain, and was first recorded in domestic poultry in Asia in 1996. It has since spread to some wild birds in Asia and Eastern Europe. It has also infected more than 100 people and caused the deaths of 61 of them. All human cases to date have been transmitted from poultry, and there have been no recorded instances of transmission from wild birds to humans.

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) strongly opposes the culling of wild birds and the draining of wetlands in response to H5N1. The best science, as well as common sense, indicates that these actions are impractical, and could even result in an increase in the spread of the virus by causing birds to disperse more widely. The World Health Organization and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization have also taken this position. Effective control of the disease should instead first focus on the domestic poultry industry, including: stringent global monitoring programs;

immediate culling and correct disposal of infected flocks; limiting contact between domestic poultry and wild birds to limit the possible spread to wild flocks; and restrictions on the movement of domestic poultry. Because there have been recent records of cage birds transported in the international pet trade testing positive for H5N1, a ban on the trade in cage birds should be implemented to limit the spread of the virus. ABC also supports efforts to monitor the spread of the virus in wild birds, as well as gathering more data on the ecological strategy of the virus, so that H5N1 may be more fully understood and future outbreaks prevented.

To date, H5N1 has not been recorded in North America. The observation of dead wild birds does not necessarily indicate the arrival of the virus to America, as bird deaths can be caused by a variety of diseases and other factors. Large bird die-offs should be reported to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service so they can investigate the exact cause. There is no evidence that feeding of wild birds plays a role in the spread of the disease, but people should clean bird feeders regularly to limit the spread of other diseases.

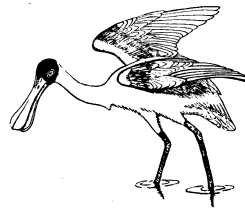
--From: *American Bird Conservancy Position Statement on Avian Influenza*,

<http://www.abcbirds.org/flu.htm>

Also see updates on Birdnet, <http://www.nmnh.si.edu/BIRDNET/OC/avianinfluenza.html>

# From The Spoonbill's Past

## Compiled by Skip Almoney



THE  
SPOONBILL

### *Fifty Years Ago*

#### **Knot --**

On December 4, 1955, a Knot was seen by Armand Yramategui on the Velasco Beach about 300 yards east of the north Jetties. The bird was alone although Sanderlings and Semipalmated Sandpipers often crossed its path near the receding waves. Quite similar to the illustration in Peterson's Eastern Guide, but different in that the legs, although greenish, were slightly more yellow than in his drawing. The metatarsus and heel were quite enlarged as in most Knots. The breast was more grayish than Peterson's description and appeared mottled or scaly with considerable gray. This grayish breast blended into the light belly.

### *Thirty Years Ago*

#### **PLACES TO GO**

The place to go right now is still Warren Ranch Lake with all its Bald Eagles, geese, and ducks. Even a Peregrine Falcon was reported there last month. Margaret Anderson and her son, last January 2nd, saw no less than 13 Bald Eagles, 2 adults and 11 immatures. Most observers are seeing at least 2, 3 or more at any time they visit the lake.

The Anna's Hummingbird at a feeder at 7821 Arberry, has reached full male plumage and is singing up a storm, which Margaret Anderson says is an indication he will soon be moving on. If you want to see him ... call Mrs. Byrd ... The feeder hangs by her kitchen window over the driveway. Mrs. Byrd is an accomplished lapidary, and also has a beautiful collection of Pacific Ocean shells, that would be mouth-watering to a member of the Conchology Group.

A Glaucous Gull was seen at Texas City Dike January 7th, following a shrimp boat in company with many Laughing, Ring-billed, and Herring Gulls. A comparison in size was easy, with this large white bird flying alongside the other gulls. Since the end of the dike is so close to Bolivar, it is believed he may wing back and forth between the two places.

Some people are asking where they can see Sandhill Cranes. Of course, W. Harris Co. is the prime answer, with Fort Bend and Brazoria counties next. But there has been, for the past couple of years or more, a colony on W. Galveston Island, in fields between Jamaica Beach and Sea Isle. Saturday, January 10th, observers reported more than 100 in that area, some no more than 25 feet from the fence.

### *Forty Years Ago*

#### **COMING EVENTS**

January 29 (Saturday) Regular OG Field Trip to Cinco Ranch led by Harvey Patten. We hope to see the many species of sparrows which we saw on last year's trip. Meet at 9 AM at the intersection of Beeler Road and Westheimer, just east of Barker Dam.

February 3 (Thursday) Regular OG meeting at 7:30 PM-- Downtown Recreation Center. Dr. David Marrack will speak on "Food for Birds" an excellent wintertime subject. Dr. Marrack, who "caught the bug" to study birds from his schoolmaster in 1934, chose Houston as his place of residence because of the good birding in this area. Dr. Marrack is a biochemist and is Chief of the Section of Biochemistry of Research Clinical Pathology at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute.

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

**TO START OR RENEW A MEMBERSHIP:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Additional contributions are welcome in any amount.

Send to:

Outdoor Nature Club  
PO Box 270894  
Houston TX 77277-0894

Membership questions? Contact Margret Simmons  
phone 713-776-2511  
msimmons@compassnet.com

***New in 2006:***  
**Discount for Electronic *Spoonbill***

Members who do not wish to receive a printed copy of *The Spoonbill* can save \$4 off their dues:

	<i>Individual</i>	<i>Family</i>
ONC	\$ 8.00	\$ 15.00
<b>OG</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>	<b>\$ 15.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 18.00</b>	<b>\$ 30.00</b>

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