



The Spoonbill

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

August 2009
Vol. 58 No. 6

Monthly Meeting: Monday, August 3

Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet, Houston

Learning Corner -- 6:30 p.m. -- Bill Eley

7:00 p.m. – General Meeting

Program:

Four Decades of Texas Ornithology

Dr. Keith Arnold, Texas A&M University

Dr. Keith Arnold earned his Ph.D. from Louisiana State University, and since 1966 has taught ornithology, including field ornithology, to more than 2,500 students in Texas A&M's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences, where he is Professor Emeritus. He is the originator of the Texas Bird Records Committee, served as its chairman for nearly 20 years, and remains its official academician. His research has taken him to countries as distant as Tanzania, as well as Mexico, Costa Rica, and Dominica. He has more than 70 scientific publications to his name, as well as a field guide, *Birds of Texas*. In addition, he is curator of birds for the Texas Cooperative Wildlife Collections, a fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, and an honorary life member and former president of the Texas Ornithological Society. For the past 20 years, he has also provided private consulting on endangered species including the Black-capped Vireo and Golden-cheeked Warbler.

Please join us as Dr. Arnold shares his 40 years of study and observation of birds in Texas.

A New Season...

I hope you are having a great summer! The OG Board is getting ready for another exciting year. Jerry Stanislaw (treasurer), Margaret Simmons (membership), Al Shultz (*Spoonbill* editor), Deborah Valdez (librarian), and David Sarkozi (Clearing House) continue as Board members. In addition, Bernice Hotman will continue to provide insight as Past-Chair. Adam Wood continues to arrange exciting field trips; highlights this year will include the King Ranch and Washington state. Lenore Alfredson is joining the Board as secretary.

John Schneider is bringing fresh ideas to the programs this year. He has lined up a wide variety of programs, from birding the Katy Prairie to the Lake District in England. Kathy Adams and Gary Clark will be among the presenters this fall. As the program schedule develops, the website will be updated.

Bill Eley is going to help coordinate the Learning Corner. Bill is Program Development Director at the Houston Arboretum. He will lead Learning Corner at several meetings and also will make arrangements for other speakers.

The Board plans to implement a monthly photo contest. We hope this will be a fun way for OG members to share their photographs. Frank Farese has agreed to help coordinate the contest. More details will be available in the coming month.

Gwen Kunz, a long-time OG member, has very generously made a second art donation. We will soon have a raffle for a John Tveten photograph of fledgling owls.

As always, I welcome your feedback and suggestions. The Board appreciates your continued support! I hope to see you soon at a meeting or field trip!

-- Pam Smolen, OG Chairperson

Other Events

- Aug. 15: Monthly OG Field Trip
Quintana & Bryan Beach
- Sep. 14: Monthly OG Meeting
- Sep. 19: Monthly OG Field Trip -- Big Thicket
- Oct. 29 - Nov. 1: Quarterly OG Field Trip

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**Ornithology Group,
Houston Outdoor Nature Club**

Minutes of Meeting on Monday, May 4, 2009

Number of Attendees: 65

1. **Learning Corner:** Steve Gross discussed the birds of summer. Some of the birds that can be seen in the summer on the Katy Prairie are Dickcissel, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Common Nighthawk, and Fulvous Whistling Duck. The Piney Woods is a good place to see Prothonotary Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Northern Parula, and Hooded Warbler. Brazos Bend State Park is a good place to see Painted Bunting. A visit to the shore will often give you a view of the Sanderling in beautiful breeding plumage; Wilson's and Piping Plovers; most of the terns (except Common Tern); Frigatebirds, and Skimmers. This is also the season to enjoy the Chimney Swifts, Barn Swallows, Purple Martins, and Mississippi and Swallow-tailed Kites.
2. **Sightings:** Bernice Hotman opened the meeting and the following sightings were mentioned: Black-whiskered Vireo, Bobolink, Golden-winged Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Purple Gallinule at an apartment pool, Hudsonian Godwit and Wilson's Phalarope at Paul Rushing Park. Some interesting yard birds were Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Bay-breasted Warbler, and Magnolia Warbler.
3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Minutes from the April 6 meeting were approved as printed in the previous *Spoonbill*.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** Jerry Stanislav presented a Treasurer's Report and Budget for the fiscal years ending 5/31/09 and 5/31/10. There were no questions or comments. The budget was approved unanimously.
5. **Donation:** The Executive Committee recommended a donation of \$500 to the Katy Prairie Conservancy. This was unanimously approved by the membership.
6. **Library Report:** Debbie Valdez encouraged members to check out CD's and books for the summer.
7. **Spoonbill:** The next issue will be August 2009. The deadline for submissions is July 15.
8. **Field Trips:** Adam Wood reported that the week-long trip to the Davis and Guadalupe Mountains was a great success with 205 species seen. Some highlights were Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Gray Vireo, Black-capped Vireo, Grace's Warbler, Virginia's Warbler, Common Black-hawk, and 8 Burrowing Owls in one location. The highlight of the April trip to the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory was watching the bird banding.
9. **Future Field Trips:** Details of the May 16 trip to the Trinity River are on the website. Target birds will be lingering migrants. The May 30 kayaking trip on Christmas Bay is a joint trip with Houston Audubon.
10. **Program:** Pam Smolen introduced Keith Barnes, co-founder of Tropical Birds. Keith spoke about Madagascar, the fourth-largest island in the world, and showed slides of its birds and other wildlife. Although the island is not much bigger than Texas, it has 5 vegetation zones. There are 258 species of birds, 120 which are endemic. Madagascar has an amazing diversity of wildlife, with 60 species of chameleon and 30 species of lemur. The animals are not afraid of humans, and it is possible to get very close to them. The Spiny Desert is

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:	Pam Smolen	832-212-1368
Vice-Chair:	John Schneider	713-952-3770
Secretary:	Lenore Alfredson	281-579-8551
Treasurer:	Jerry Stanislav	936-271-7772
Clearing House:	David Sarkozi	713-412-4409
Library:	Deborah Valdez	281-879-8668
Membership:	Margret Simmons	713-776-2511
Field Trips:	Adam Wood	713-515-1692
The Spoonbill:	Al Shultz	281-829-0970
	email:	ogspoonbill@sbcglobal.net

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

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

the most bizarre and attractive ecosystem in Madagascar. There is limited infrastructure on the island and widespread poverty, but the people are proud and happy. He suggested that, due to the climate, the best time to visit the island is October and November.

--Cindy Douglass, OG Secretary (through May 2009)

Donations to OG

The OG gratefully accepts donations to help defray expenses of printing and mailing *The Spoonbill*, speaker's fees and travel allowances. The OG wishes to thank the following members for contributing funds beyond their membership dues this year.

Clinton E. (Gene) Calvert
Bert Du Plessis
Julia Garrett
Steve Gross
Ed & Barbara Hickl
Kathy Merritt
Kevin Poling
Mary Helen Pritchett
Suzy & Sandy Rhodes
Bob & Margret Simmons
Pam Smolen
Jim & Betsy Winn
Ann & Hooker Wood

Monthly Field Trip: Quintana Area and Bryan Beach

August 15, 2009 -- Quintana Jetty -- 8 a.m.

Our first monthly field trip of the new OG year is to the Quintana area and Bryan Beach. I will lead us to all the various hotspots (Quintana Jetty, Quintana Neararctic/Neotropical Migratory Bird Sanctuary and Bryan Beach) in the Quintana area, as well as a few other spots that are not as well known, in search of various migrant shorebirds as well as any early migrant warblers or other passerines. The main goal for the trip will be the shorebirds that should be around in fairly large numbers, since August is the prime month for shorebird migration. Special emphasis will be placed on finding as many species of sandpipers as we can, with extra time being spent on ID'ing Dowitchers, the small peeps (Least, Western and Semipalmated Sandpipers), Baird's and White-rumped Sandpiper. We could encounter Surf Scoter, Greater Scaup, Horned Grebe, Northern Gannet, and Lesser Black-backed Gull (becoming regular nowadays). The potential exists for finding an odd gull because this is one of the few areas where odd gulls have a habitat of turning up along the Upper Texas Coast (UTC). It is still very hot in this region during this time so the trip will probably last only until lunch, but if the weather is unseasonably nice and we are finding good birds we may continue birding after lunch for those who are interested. So come out and enjoy a nice morning of shorebirding along the UTC.

Meet at the parking lot for Quintana Jetty at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 15, 2009. To get there from Houston, take SH 288 south to BUS 288 and head towards Angleton. Take a left at the third light, which is FM 523, and continue to FM 1495. At FM 1495 turn left and head south across the Intracoastal Waterway to CR 723, then turn left (east) and drive until CR 723 dead ends into 5th street. Go right on 5th street to Burnet St. (the very next street) and go left (east) on Burnet Street to 2nd Street. Turn right (south) on 2nd St. and follow it to the sandy parking area for the Quintana Jetty.

Make sure to bring binoculars, a hat, sunscreen, raingear (in case it rains, but we will bird rain or shine), water, snacks if you would like, a scope (if you have one) and camera. If you plan to bird in the afternoon, make sure to bring a lunch.

--Adam Wood, OG Field Trip

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Coordinator, 713-515-1692,

Monthly Field Trips (2009-2010)	
Aug 15, 2009	Quintana/Bryan Beach
Sep 13, 2009	Beginning Birder Trip I: Jesse Jones Park
Sep 19, 2009	Big Thicket: Hardin/Jasper Counties
Oct 11, 2009	Beginning Birder Trip II: Katy Prairie
Oct 17, 2009	Palmetto State Park
Nov 21, 2009	Huntsville State Park
Dec 1, 2009	Houston CBC (date to be determined)
Jan 16, 2010	Brazos Bend State Park and Davis Estates
Feb 20, 2010	Katy Prairie
Mar 20, 2010	Sheldon Lake SP
Apr 17, 2010	Matagorda County Birding Nature Center & Jetty
May 15, 2010	Little Thicket Nature Center

Quarterly Field Trips	
Oct 29 - Nov 1, 2009	NE Texas (Greenville/Dallas, Lake Tawakoni)
Jan 31 - Feb 7, 2010	Washington State w/ Victor Emanuel Nature Tours
Apr 29 - May 2, 2010	Lower Rio Grande Valley



2009 Swift Awareness Events

August 5: Chimney Swifts with Pam Smolen

7:00 - 8:30 p.m. at the Nature Discovery Center

Chimney Swifts chatter over Houston from March to October every year consuming massive amounts of mosquitoes and other bugs. Chimney Swifts build their nests, raise their families, and sleep just feet from where we live. During this presentation we will explore the fascinating and secretive home life of these aerial acrobats and what Houston birders are doing to conserve their declining numbers.

August 27: Swift Night Out in Dayton

Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the Rice Dryer in Dayton for special activities associated with the weekly count.

September 1: Swift Night Out at Whole Foods Market

Activities will begin at 7:00 p.m. at the Whole Foods Market parking lot. At the end of August and early September we typically count over 500 Chimney Swifts. The event is sponsored by Houston Audubon Society, the Nature Discovery Center, and Whole Foods Market.

September 11: Swift Night Out at St. Paul's Methodist Church. New for 2009. We will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the parking lot at St. Paul's Methodist Church.

For more information: contact Pam Smolen, or see www.houstonaudubon.org

Waterfowl Numbers Increase

The preliminary estimate of total ducks from the 2009 Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey was 42 million, which is 13 percent greater than last year's estimate and 25 percent greater than the 1955-2008 average.

Overall, habitat conditions for breeding waterfowl in 2009 were better than conditions in 2008.

Highlights from the survey in the north-central United States, south-central and northern Canada, and Alaska (the traditional survey area) include:

- The estimated mallard population is 8.5 million birds, a 10 percent increase over last year's estimate of 7.7 million birds and 13 percent above the long-term average.
- The estimated population of 3.1 million Gadwall is similar to last year's estimate and 73 percent above the long-term average.
- At 7.4 million, the estimated population size of Blue-winged Teal is the second highest on record, while Green-winged Teal numbers were at an all-time high of 3.4 million. Estimates for both species are well above their long-term averages (60 percent and 79 percent, respectively).

- The 3.2 million estimate for Northern Pintails is 23 percent more than last year but 20 percent below the long-term average.
- The estimated number of one million Redheads is similar to last year and is 62 percent above the long-term average.
- The Canvasback estimate of 662,000 is 35 percent more than last year's estimate and similar to the long-term average.
- The estimated abundance of Northern Shovelers (4.4 million) is 25 percent more than last year and 92 percent above the long-term average.
- The Scaup (Lesser and Greater combined), estimate of 4.2 million, is 12 percent greater than last year but 18 percent below the long-term average.

--U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Ellen Red

The Spoonbill notes with regret the passing of Ellen Red on July 16. Ellen was an ONC president and OG chair, as well as a Houston Audubon board member. She will be remembered and missed by all of us.

Clearing House

This is a summary of birds for the Upper Texas Coast (Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, and Jefferson Counties) reported to eBird.org. Unusual birds are in **bold**. For some species, reports exceed totals because some lists have species as "present" rather than by number. --David Sarkozi 713-412-4409 david@sarkozi.net

April 2009 -- There were 309 species reported from 1382 checklists. This month's report has a lot of late lingering birds which together isn't all that uncommon. The true rarities this month were Glaucous Gull, Lesser Nighthawk, and Townsend's Warbler.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck reports=250 total=315
Fulvous Whistling-Duck reports=28 total=108
Greater White-fronted Goose reports=1 total=2
Snow Goose reports=5 total=9
Canada Goose reports=2 total=6
Muscovy Duck (Domestic type) reports=2 total=8
Wood Duck reports=32 total=24
Gadwall reports=11 total=15
American Wigeon reports=10 total=18
Mallard reports=15 total=24
Mallard (Domestic type) reports=4 total=5
Mottled Duck reports=119 total=53
Blue-winged Teal reports=257 total=920
Cinnamon Teal reports=6 total=2
Northern Shoveler reports=68 total=135
Northern Pintail reports=3 total=23
Green-winged Teal reports=43 total=26
Lesser Scaup reports=1 total=4
White-winged Scoter reports=1 total=5
Common Goldeneye reports=2 total=1
Red-breasted Merganser reports=15 total=22
Ruddy Duck reports=11 total=252
Greater Prairie-Chicken reports=2 total=3
Wild Turkey reports=1 total=2
Northern Bobwhite reports=10 total=10
Common Loon reports=3 total=2
Pied-billed Grebe reports=128 total=179
Eared Grebe reports=3 total=11
Northern Gannet reports=2 total=2
American White Pelican reports=71 total=307
Brown Pelican reports=230 total=1,489
Neotropic Cormorant reports=241 total=960
Double-crested Cormorant reports=183 total=400
cormorant sp. reports=4 total=4
Anhinga reports=89 total=100
Magnificent Frigatebird reports=26 total=14
American Bittern reports=20 total=6
Least Bittern reports=12 total=6
Great Blue Heron reports=264 total=39
Great Egret reports=468 total=490
Snowy Egret reports=351 total=520
Little Blue Heron reports=287 total=111
Tricolored Heron reports=281 total=392
Reddish Egret reports=70 total=18
Cattle Egret reports=244 total=507
Green Heron reports=239 total=48
Black-crowned Night-Heron reports=62 total=39
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reports=165 total=60
White Ibis reports=292 total=1,529
Glossy Ibis reports=5 total=3
Glossy x White-faced Ibis (hybrid) reports=1 total=1
White-faced Ibis reports=140 total=253
Plegadis sp. reports=2 total=2
Roseate Spoonbill reports=239 total=1,325
Black Vulture reports=254 total=142
Turkey Vulture reports=385 total=108
Osprey reports=56 total=8
Swallow-tailed Kite reports=14 total=5
White-tailed Kite reports=18 total=7
Mississippi Kite reports=35 total=208
Bald Eagle reports=7 total=5
Northern Harrier reports=57 total=10
Sharp-shinned Hawk reports=11 total=7
Cooper's Hawk reports=38 total=8
Accipiter sp. reports=2 total=2
Red-shouldered Hawk reports=106 total=19
Broad-winged Hawk reports=50 total=480
Swainson's Hawk reports=84 total=34
White-tailed Hawk reports=15 total=4
Red-tailed Hawk reports=72 total=20
Crested Caracara reports=53 total=11
American Kestrel reports=21 total=6
Merlin reports=22 total=7
Peregrine Falcon reports=19 total=9
Yellow Rail reports=12 total=16
Clapper Rail reports=35 total=24
King Rail reports=12 total=6
Virginia Rail reports=13 total=17
Sora reports=60 total=17
Purple Gallinule reports=34 total=37
Common Moorhen reports=162 total=230
American Coot reports=147 total=826
Black-bellied Plover reports=102 total=132
American Golden-Plover reports=56 total=201
Snowy Plover reports=16 total=8
Wilson's Plover reports=29 total=24
Semipalmated Plover reports=100 total=319
Piping Plover reports=49 total=141
Killdeer reports=263 total=85
American Oystercatcher reports=29 total=16
Black-necked Stilt reports=273 total=286
American Avocet reports=34 total=28,446
Spotted Sandpiper reports=47 total=12
Solitary Sandpiper reports=45 total=18
Greater Yellowlegs reports=165 total=141
Willet reports=177 total=350
Lesser Yellowlegs reports=210 total=1,198
Upland Sandpiper reports=53 total=136
Whimbrel reports=70 total=251
Long-billed Curlew reports=17 total=19
Hudsonian Godwit reports=5 total=4
Marbled Godwit reports=51 total=94
Ruddy Turnstone reports=90 total=133
Red Knot reports=13 total=19
Sanderling reports=112 total=840
Semipalmated Sandpiper reports=66 total=307
Western Sandpiper reports=72 total=579
Least Sandpiper reports=147 total=369
White-rumped Sandpiper reports=7 total=10
Baird's Sandpiper reports=19 total=69
Pectoral Sandpiper reports=54 total=345
Dunlin reports=98 total=570
Stilt Sandpiper reports=41 total=67
Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports=12 total=64
Short-billed Dowitcher reports=51 total=350
Long-billed Dowitcher reports=118 total=602
Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher reports=28 total=459
Wilson's Snipe reports=28 total=13
Wilson's Phalarope reports=8 total=12
Bonaparte's Gull reports=4 total=5
Laughing Gull reports=406 total=4,265
Franklin's Gull reports=15 total=28
Ring-billed Gull reports=112 total=71
Herring Gull reports=104 total=176
Herring x Glaucous Gull (hybrid) reports=1 total=2
Lesser Black-backed Gull reports=1 total=1
Glaucous Gull reports=2 total=2
Least Tern reports=105 total=663
Gull-billed Tern reports=52 total=52
Caspian Tern reports=91 total=131
Black Tern reports=28 total=100
Common Tern reports=51 total=220
Forster's Tern reports=163 total=505
Royal Tern reports=146 total=1,280
Sandwich Tern reports=63 total=125
Black Skimmer reports=80 total=2,155
Parasitic Jaeger reports=1 total=1
Rock Pigeon reports=162 total=162
African Collared-Dove reports=1 total=1
Eurasian Collared-Dove reports=211 total=48
White-winged Dove reports=334 total=197
Mourning Dove reports=563 total=152
Inca Dove reports=95 total=29
Common Ground-Dove reports=2 total=3
Monk Parakeet reports=6 total=14
Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports=71 total=23
Black-billed Cuckoo reports=15 total=6
Barn Owl reports=5 total=3
Eastern Screech-Owl reports=38 total=9
Great Horned Owl reports=14 total=5
Barred Owl reports=32 total=11
Lesser Nighthawk reports=1 total=1
Common Nighthawk reports=68 total=25
Chuck-will's-widow reports=26 total=7
Whip-poor-will reports=1 total=1
Chimney Swift reports=276 total=448
Ruby-throated Hummingbird reports=272 total=46
Black-chinned Hummingbird reports=5 total=1
Ruby-throated/Black-chinned Hummingbird reports=4 total=3
hummingbird sp. reports=4 total=1
Belted Kingfisher reports=116 total=12
Red-headed Woodpecker reports=40 total=14
Red-bellied Woodpecker reports=354 total=35
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker reports=33 total=7
Downy Woodpecker reports=272 total=24
Northern Flicker reports=3 total=2
Pileated Woodpecker reports=96 total=13

Olive-sided Flycatcher reports=1 total=1
 Eastern Wood-Pewee reports=118 total=25
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reports=4 total=3
 Acadian Flycatcher reports=30 total=11
 Willow Flycatcher reports=4 total=2
 Least Flycatcher reports=6 total=3
 Empidonax sp. reports=11 total=5
 Eastern Phoebe reports=15 total=7
Ash-throated Flycatcher reports=3 total=1
 Great Crested Flycatcher reports=115 total=20
 Western Kingbird reports=25 total=7
 Eastern Kingbird reports=226 total=87
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports=167 total=37
 Loggerhead Shrike reports=212 total=24
 White-eyed Vireo reports=346 total=141
 Yellow-throated Vireo reports=84 total=13
 Blue-headed Vireo reports=88 total=16
 Warbling Vireo reports=34 total=10
 Philadelphia Vireo reports=28 total=9
 Red-eyed Vireo reports=179 total=69
 Blue Jay reports=502 total=58
 American Crow reports=251 total=99
 Fish Crow reports=7 total=8
 Horned Lark reports=14 total=22
 Purple Martin reports=395 total=285
 Tree Swallow reports=213 total=600
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow reports=67 total=118
 Bank Swallow reports=29 total=122
 Cliff Swallow reports=109 total=359
 Cave Swallow reports=22 total=200
 Barn Swallow reports=432 total=485
 swallow sp. reports=17 total=92
 Carolina Chickadee reports=313 total=117
 Tufted Titmouse reports=184 total=91
 Brown-headed Nuthatch reports=4 total=6
 Carolina Wren reports=380 total=86
 House Wren reports=41 total=14
 Sedge Wren reports=46 total=87
 Marsh Wren reports=79 total=40
 Golden-crowned Kinglet reports=1 total=2
 Ruby-crowned Kinglet reports=217 total=43
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher reports=237 total=106
 Eastern Bluebird reports=33 total=29
 Veery reports=40 total=8
 Gray-cheeked Thrush reports=33 total=7
 Swainson's Thrush reports=123 total=40
 Hermit Thrush reports=23 total=7
 Wood Thrush reports=94 total=20

American Robin reports=63 total=29
 Gray Catbird reports=292 total=401
 Northern Mockingbird reports=652 total=142
 Brown Thrasher reports=136 total=18
 European Starling reports=464 total=337
 American Pipit reports=12 total=33
 Cedar Waxwing reports=42 total=123
 Blue-winged Warbler reports=103 total=18
 Golden-winged Warbler reports=38 total=8
 Tennessee Warbler reports=171 total=294
 Orange-crowned Warbler reports=58 total=9
 Nashville Warbler reports=75 total=20
 Northern Parula reports=229 total=80
 Yellow Warbler reports=103 total=28
 Chestnut-sided Warbler reports=137 total=25
 Magnolia Warbler reports=74 total=16
 Cape May Warbler reports=10 total=4
 Black-throated Blue Warbler reports=3 total=1
 Yellow-rumped Warbler reports=171 total=56
 Black-throated Green Warbler reports=143 total=31
Townsend's Warbler reports=3 total=3
 Blackburnian Warbler reports=79 total=12
 Yellow-throated Warbler reports=65 total=23
 Pine Warbler reports=76 total=56
 Prairie Warbler reports=14 total=5
 Palm Warbler reports=5 total=3
 Bay-breasted Warbler reports=58 total=19
 Blackpoll Warbler reports=75 total=39
 Cerulean Warbler reports=60 total=17
 Black-and-white Warbler reports=229 total=47
 American Redstart reports=122 total=22
 Prothonotary Warbler reports=100 total=37
 Worm-eating Warbler reports=95 total=28
 Swainson's Warbler reports=17 total=6
 Ovenbird reports=75 total=16
 Northern Waterthrush reports=100 total=17
 Louisiana Waterthrush reports=25 total=8
 Kentucky Warbler reports=104 total=33
 Common Yellowthroat reports=229 total=34
 Hooded Warbler reports=204 total=92
 Wilson's Warbler reports=16 total=5
 Canada Warbler reports=20 total=5
 Yellow-breasted Chat reports=129 total=15
 warbler sp. reports=4 total=7
 Summer Tanager reports=251 total=80
 Scarlet Tanager reports=158 total=43
 Western Tanager reports=6 total=2
 Eastern Towhee reports=1 total=0

Chipping Sparrow reports=47 total=31
 Clay-colored Sparrow reports=4 total=5
 Field Sparrow reports=9 total=4
 Vesper Sparrow reports=6 total=4
 Lark Sparrow reports=8 total=7
 Savannah Sparrow reports=203 total=228
 Grasshopper Sparrow reports=4 total=3
 Le Conte's Sparrow reports=3 total=1
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow reports=20 total=11
 Seaside Sparrow reports=32 total=61
Fox Sparrow reports=1 total=1
 Song Sparrow reports=12 total=8
 Lincoln's Sparrow reports=106 total=24
 Swamp Sparrow reports=81 total=28
 White-throated Sparrow reports=108 total=51
 White-crowned Sparrow reports=3 total=16
 sparrow sp. reports=2 total=2
 Northern Cardinal reports=717 total=225
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak reports=226 total=299
 Black-headed Grosbeak reports=4 total=2
 Blue Grosbeak reports=86 total=57
 Indigo Bunting reports=350 total=264
 Painted Bunting reports=82 total=19
 bunting sp. reports=1 total=4
 Dickcissel reports=43 total=56
 Bobolink reports=19 total=202
 Red-winged Blackbird reports=407 total=520
 Eastern Meadowlark reports=119 total=106
 Western Meadowlark reports=1 total=1
 Yellow-headed Blackbird reports=6 total=4
 Brewer's Blackbird reports=14 total=228
 Common Grackle reports=249 total=125
 Boat-tailed Grackle reports=124 total=206
 Great-tailed Grackle reports=460 total=437
 grackle sp. reports=2 total=200
 Bronzed Cowbird reports=32 total=14
 Brown-headed Cowbird reports=218 total=164
 Orchard Oriole reports=282 total=157
 Hooded Oriole reports=2 total=2
 Baltimore Oriole reports=203 total=161
 blackbird sp. reports=2 total=11
 House Finch reports=123 total=50
 Pine Siskin reports=1 total=1
 American Goldfinch reports=90 total=281
 House Sparrow reports=317 total=145
 Nutmeg Mannikin reports=11 total=42

May 2009 -- There were 261 species reported from 803 checklists. Notable species reported this month are Least Grebe, American Flamingo, Black Rail, Great Kiskadee, and Yellow-green Vireo. The American Flamingo turned out to be the bird seen up and down the Texas coast for the last few years. The Black Rail is the first reported since Hurricane Ike.

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck reports=188 total=377
 Fulvous Whistling-Duck reports=80 total=839
 whistling-duck sp. reports=1 total=1
 Muscovy Duck (Domestic type) reports=2 total=33
 Wood Duck reports=18 total=21
 Gadwall reports=1 total=3
 American Wigeon reports=1 total=9
 Mallard (Domestic type) reports=1 total=6
 Mottled Duck reports=76 total=58
 Blue-winged Teal reports=65 total=77
 Northern Shoveler reports=7 total=2
 teal sp. reports=1 total=20
 Lesser Scaup reports=2 total=1
 Red-breasted Merganser reports=2 total=2

Ruddy Duck reports=7 total=17
 Northern Bobwhite reports=31 total=27
 Common Loon reports=2 total=3
Least Grebe reports=1 total=1
 Pied-billed Grebe reports=42 total=20
American Flamingo reports=3 total=1
 Greater Flamingo reports=1 total=1
 Northern Gannet reports=1 total=1
 American White Pelican reports=12 total=75
 Brown Pelican reports=101 total=605
 Neotropical Cormorant reports=101 total=313
 Double-crested Cormorant reports=42 total=240
 cormorant sp. reports=3 total=6
 Anhinga reports=42 total=43
 Magnificent Frigatebird reports=18 total=10
 American Bittern reports=1 total=2

Least Bittern reports=23 total=18
 Great Blue Heron reports=138 total=26
 Great Egret reports=251 total=218
 Snowy Egret reports=185 total=119
 Little Blue Heron reports=130 total=107
 Tricolored Heron reports=134 total=92
 Reddish Egret reports=38 total=16
 Cattle Egret reports=176 total=530
 Green Heron reports=141 total=42
 Black-crowned Night-Heron reports=32 total=14
 Yellow-crowned Night-Heron reports=126 total=81
 White Ibis reports=123 total=803
 Glossy Ibis reports=3 total=1
 White-faced Ibis reports=27 total=241
 Plegadis sp. reports=2 total=12

Roseate Spoonbill reports=106 total=372
 Wood Stork reports=1 total=0
 Black Vulture reports=125 total=92
 Turkey Vulture reports=169 total=95
 Osprey reports=11 total=5
 Swallow-tailed Kite reports=7 total=3
 White-tailed Kite reports=6 total=4
 Mississippi Kite reports=32 total=28
 Northern Harrier reports=10 total=4
 Sharp-shinned Hawk reports=1 total=1
 Cooper's Hawk reports=12 total=8
 Red-shouldered Hawk reports=57 total=17
 Broad-winged Hawk reports=1 total=0
 Swainson's Hawk reports=31 total=9
 White-tailed Hawk reports=12 total=7
 Red-tailed Hawk reports=33 total=10
 Crested Caracara reports=53 total=16
 Merlin reports=3 total=1
 Peregrine Falcon reports=6 total=3
Black Rail reports=1 total=1
 Clapper Rail reports=19 total=26
 King Rail reports=13 total=4
 Sora reports=10 total=8
 Purple Gallinule reports=51 total=50
 Common Moorhen reports=77 total=110
 American Coot reports=42 total=111
 Black-bellied Plover reports=41 total=66
 American Golden-Plover reports=15 total=9
 Snowy Plover reports=3 total=7
 Wilson's Plover reports=13 total=16
 Semipalmated Plover reports=23 total=22
 Piping Plover reports=9 total=4
 Killdeer reports=187 total=137
 American Oystercatcher reports=13 total=13
 Black-necked Stilt reports=149 total=388
 American Avocet reports=16 total=80
 Spotted Sandpiper reports=47 total=12
 Solitary Sandpiper reports=15 total=2
 Greater Yellowlegs reports=58 total=37
 Willet reports=81 total=139
 Lesser Yellowlegs reports=72 total=122
 Greater/Lesser Yellowlegs reports=1 total=1
 Upland Sandpiper reports=2 total=3
 Whimbrel reports=23 total=44
 Long-billed Curlew reports=6 total=22
 Hudsonian Godwit reports=10 total=11
 Marbled Godwit reports=15 total=9
 Ruddy Turnstone reports=66 total=147
 Red Knot reports=5 total=16
 Sanderling reports=55 total=366
 Semipalmated Sandpiper reports=28 total=29
 Western Sandpiper reports=17 total=39
 Least Sandpiper reports=71 total=50
 White-rumped Sandpiper reports=65 total=345
 Baird's Sandpiper reports=7 total=6
 Pectoral Sandpiper reports=22 total=46
 Dunlin reports=48 total=128
 Stilt Sandpiper reports=32 total=53
 peep sp. reports=1 total=10
 Buff-breasted Sandpiper reports=22 total=101
 Short-billed Dowitcher reports=23 total=53
 Long-billed Dowitcher reports=28 total=161
 Short-billed/Long-billed Dowitcher reports=7 total=16
 Wilson's Phalarope reports=36 total=65
 Laughing Gull reports=195 total=895
 Franklin's Gull reports=2 total=6
 Ring-billed Gull reports=22 total=10
 Herring Gull reports=25 total=13
 Least Tern reports=69 total=192
 Gull-billed Tern reports=33 total=32
 Caspian Tern reports=29 total=36
 Black Tern reports=31 total=74
 Common Tern reports=18 total=65
 Forster's Tern reports=64 total=136
 Royal Tern reports=47 total=621
 Sandwich Tern reports=32 total=100
 Black Skimmer reports=35 total=337
 Pomarine Jaeger reports=2 total=1
 Rock Pigeon reports=99 total=133
 African Collared-Dove reports=1 total=1
 Eurasian Collared-Dove reports=106 total=44
 White-winged Dove reports=145 total=321
 Mourning Dove reports=345 total=124
 Inca Dove reports=24 total=12
 Monk Parakeet reports=9 total=20
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo reports=60 total=26
 Greater Roadrunner reports=5 total=4
 Barn Owl reports=1 total=1
 Eastern Screech-Owl reports=6 total=4
 Great Horned Owl reports=16 total=6
 Barred Owl reports=6 total=4
 Common Nighthawk reports=126 total=64
 nighthawk sp. reports=1 total=1
 Chuck-will's-widow reports=7 total=3
 Chimney Swift reports=147 total=75
 Buff-bellied Hummingbird reports=1 total=1
 Ruby-throated Hummingbird reports=71 total=18
 Black-chinned Hummingbird reports=1 total=1
 Ruby-throated/Black-chinned Hummingbird reports=2 total=1
 Belted Kingfisher reports=11 total=2
 Red-headed Woodpecker reports=37 total=11
 Red-bellied Woodpecker reports=209 total=27
 Downy Woodpecker reports=130 total=19
 Northern Flicker reports=3 total=4
 Pileated Woodpecker reports=52 total=15
 Olive-sided Flycatcher reports=3 total=4
 Eastern Wood-Pewee reports=66 total=32
 Yellow-bellied Flycatcher reports=7 total=4
 Acadian Flycatcher reports=23 total=18
 Willow Flycatcher reports=2 total=1
 Least Flycatcher reports=9 total=4
 Empidonax sp. reports=7 total=5
 Great Crested Flycatcher reports=58 total=15
Great Kiskadee reports=2 total=2
 Western Kingbird reports=13 total=12
 Eastern Kingbird reports=82 total=68
 Scissor-tailed Flycatcher reports=112 total=37
 Loggerhead Shrike reports=118 total=34
 White-eyed Vireo reports=72 total=41
 Yellow-throated Vireo reports=17 total=3
 Blue-headed Vireo reports=3 total=1
 Warbling Vireo reports=7 total=4
 Philadelphia Vireo reports=15 total=11
 Red-eyed Vireo reports=49 total=30
Yellow-green Vireo reports=1 total=1
 Blue Jay reports=237 total=50
 American Crow reports=123 total=51
 Horned Lark reports=46 total=39
 Purple Martin reports=193 total=195
 Tree Swallow reports=21 total=53
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow reports=26 total=12
 Bank Swallow reports=14 total=32
 Cliff Swallow reports=49 total=161
 Cave Swallow reports=9 total=74
 Barn Swallow reports=245 total=315
 swallow sp. reports=12 total=61
 Carolina Chickadee reports=172 total=77
 Tufted Titmouse reports=86 total=42
 White-breasted Nuthatch reports=1 total=1
 Brown-headed Nuthatch reports=6 total=16
 Carolina Wren reports=213 total=60
 Sedge Wren reports=2 total=1
 Marsh Wren reports=11 total=20
 Eastern Bluebird reports=23 total=22
 Gray-cheeked Thrush reports=4 total=3
 Swainson's Thrush reports=20 total=10
 Wood Thrush reports=5 total=2
 American Robin reports=30 total=32
 Gray Catbird reports=64 total=21
 Northern Mockingbird reports=405 total=122
 Northern Thrasher reports=2 total=1
 European Starling reports=257 total=237
 American Pipit reports=1 total=1
 Cedar Waxwing reports=6 total=32
 Golden-winged Warbler reports=9 total=2
 Tennessee Warbler reports=26 total=10
 Nashville Warbler reports=1 total=1
 Northern Parula reports=33 total=25
 Yellow Warbler reports=45 total=19
 Chestnut-sided Warbler reports=39 total=15
 Magnolia Warbler reports=59 total=40
 Cape May Warbler reports=30 total=4
 Black-throated Blue Warbler reports=12 total=1
 Yellow-rumped Warbler reports=5 total=1
 Black-throated Green Warbler reports=29 total=7
 Blackburnian Warbler reports=28 total=7
 Yellow-throated Warbler reports=7 total=3
 Pine Warbler reports=51 total=38
 Palm Warbler reports=2 total=0
 Bay-breasted Warbler reports=12 total=3
 Blackpoll Warbler reports=51 total=10
 Cerulean Warbler reports=2 total=1
 Black-and-white Warbler reports=38 total=7
 American Redstart reports=50 total=32
 Prothonotary Warbler reports=43 total=26
 Swainson's Warbler reports=1 total=2
 Ovenbird reports=9 total=3
 Northern Waterthrush reports=11 total=4
 Kentucky Warbler reports=4 total=1
 Mourning Warbler reports=2 total=1
 Common Yellowthroat reports=47 total=22
 Hooded Warbler reports=7 total=5
 Wilson's Warbler reports=2 total=0
 Canada Warbler reports=13 total=7
 Yellow-breasted Chat reports=5 total=6
 warbler sp. reports=4 total=3
 Summer Tanager reports=31 total=9
 Scarlet Tanager reports=21 total=6
 Savannah Sparrow reports=38 total=29
 Grasshopper Sparrow reports=1 total=1
 Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow reports=3 total=7
 Seaside Sparrow reports=12 total=9
 Lincoln's Sparrow reports=2 total=1
 White-throated Sparrow reports=1 total=2
 White-crowned Sparrow reports=2 total=2
 Northern Cardinal reports=380 total=140
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak reports=36 total=12
 Blue Grosbeak reports=13 total=3
 Indigo Bunting reports=47 total=37
 Painted Bunting reports=36 total=14
 Dickcissel reports=62 total=136
 Bobolink reports=21 total=15
 Red-winged Blackbird reports=215 total=201
 Eastern Meadowlark reports=90 total=71
 Yellow-headed Blackbird reports=3 total=4
 Common Grackle reports=171 total=169
 Boat-tailed Grackle reports=53 total=149
 Great-tailed Grackle reports=267 total=368
 grackle sp. reports=3 total=0
 Brown-headed Cowbird reports=109 total=41
 Orchard Oriole reports=69 total=48
 Baltimore Oriole reports=46 total=23
 blackbird sp. reports=3 total=5
 House Finch reports=79 total=36
 House Sparrow reports=188 total=175
 Nutmeg Mannikin reports=2 total=13

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

The Spoonbill Wants Your Help...

Stories, notes, trip reports, or other materials for future issues are always welcome. Send to the Editor by email at

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